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29 APRIL 1986

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI SPEAKS OUT ON VARIOUS ISSUES

Beirut AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Feb 86 pp 12-17

[Interview with Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi by Walid al-Husayni: "Al-Qadhdhafi Warns Gulf Countries: If Oil Quotas and Prices Are Not Adjusted, Gulf War Will Spread to All Oil-Producing Countries in the Region"; in Tripoli, date not specified]

[Text] You come upon the Libyan Sea from the air or from the Surt-Tripoli road and you see a calm, quiet sea. Meanwhile, people and radio stations are saying and the news agencies and the world press are reporting that the Sea of Surt is the event-filled region that can lead the area to the brink of war.

You enter Tripoli and find scores of progressive world leaders and American groups who chose to visit Libya during its confrontation with Reagan to underscore the fact that Reagan's ban on American travel can be defied in the same way that Libyans have defied his fleets and aircraft carriers.

You look for al-Qadhdhafi amidst this hectic climate warning of a military confrontation with the greatest power in the world and you find him atop an agricultural tractor tilling the land or on vacation in the desert with his wife and children. You miss him here only to find him suddenly in a meeting with the pan-Arab leadership of the Arab revolutionary forces or in long meetings with Palestinian and Lebanese national leaders. You watch him on Libyan TV at his tent receiving envoys and delegations only to hear that he was in Algeria on a unionist mission with Chedli Bendjedid and, upon expecting to see him returning from Algeria, you suddenly find him on a military boat at the farthest point he declared out of bounds to the American navy at a time when American maneuvers had reached their highest level.

You try to steal a little of his time, but French involvement in Chad takes him away from you.

And just when you think that he is most busy, he suddenly expresses a wish to talk to you, and exciting and serious surprises start following one after the other through this interview.

[Question] How do you perceive the end of the American-Libyan conflict?

[Answer] I do not perceive an end to this conflict so long as there is an American imperialist policy striving to contain the world and seeking to bring all regions under its influence. Basically, the conflict is not between Libya as such and America as such or between an American president and a Libyan president. What we have between us is a clear and glaring example of the kind of relationship that is inevitable between America, with its imperialist orientation, and between every country in the world seeking liberation and a safe and peaceful existence. There is a great contradiction between America and the countries of the world which can only be resolved through a broader conflict and, consequently, more intensive popular resistance to American ambitions.

This must not hide the fact that the conflict is ultimately between the superpowers; namely, the socialist camp and the imperialist camp, or the Soviet Union and the United States. The victims of this world conflict, however, are the other peoples, because the superpowers cannot clash without passing through areas inhabited by weaker peoples. America believes that it cannot surround the Soviet Union unless it occupies the Arab Nation and controls the Mediterranean Sea, thus extending its bases from West Europe across the Mediterranean to the Arab countries, all the way to its chief base in occupied Palestine, and its bases in the Indian Ocean, the Philippines, and the Pacific Ocean.

It is a strategic encirclement that can only be achieved by subjugating all the people in this region, from the Philippines to the Arab countries, and all the way to those countries that have not entered into alliances with it, such as West Europe, and those who refused to be one of its bases, as Israel has become. The United States believes that these regions must come under its influence and that is why it brandishes all kinds of weapons, from provocation to terrorism to force.

In Libya we mean more than that to the United States. We are the force that awakens Arab zeal through our progressive unionist concept. America believes that Arab unit represents a real blow to its interests and influence which it has realized through divisiveness and its agents in the Arab nation. Therefore, in its conflict with us, it tries to destroy the serious unionist liberationist endeavor in the Arab nation.

Dialogue with America Is Useless

[Question] With the exception of provocative maneuvers and the concentration of fleets and aircraft carriers, are there contacts between you and the United States?

[Answer] Several countries have tried to mediate between us and the United States, such as Yugoslavia, Greece, Malta, Algeria, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia. The United States has rejected such efforts, however, insisting on realizing its ambitions by threats, force, and economic warfare.

From the outset, we have been of the opinion that dialogue with America is useless and that confrontation is the only solution. When we accepted

mediation, we really did not want it. Our acceptance was meant to confirm to our friends and Arab brothers America's real objectives in its confrontation with us. We wanted friendly and fraternal countries to see for themselves that America's pretenses are different from its goals.

We are more determined to bring other elements into our conflict with the United States which, should it persist in its provocations, will force us to take the battle, through revolutionary forces and our allies, to America itself and to the heart of its military bases. We will keep up this action until America adheres to its borders and leaves us, as Arabs, alone to liberate ourselves, unite, and build our future.

We Are Prepared for Air Strikes Against Israel

[Question] Arab sources told AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI that you prepared for a naval strike in the Israeli heartland to preempt a military action Israel had threatened to undertake against Libya following the Vienna and Rome operations. Did you really prepare for such a strike and what led you to cancel this action?

[Answer] It is true. But we prepared for an air and not a naval strike. We gave up this option at the last moment, however, because it was limited retaliation and this is what we do not want. We were hoping that Israel would attack Libya because that would have meant war which would have given us the right to undertake military operations that would only have ended with destruction of the Zionist entity itself.

We wanted the Zionists to carry out their threats so as to surround them everywhere and attack them from everywhere, thus declaring a state of war and bringing everything in this region under the law of war.

America Obstructed World Decision

[Question] Do you believe that the American "veto" of the Security Council bill to condemn Israel for hijacking the Libyan plane has accorded international legitimacy to your decision to go after Israeli aircraft?

[Answer] Of course. This is true. Precedence is one of the sources of law. Therefore, my decision to go after Israeli civilian aircraft was not announced until after the United States permitted such an action by using the right of veto in the Security Council. We waited for world conscience to have its say in this regard, but America had rendered the world callous so we had to follow their example.

[Question] Did you pave the way for your decision to go after Israeli aircraft with Arab and international contacts?

[Answer] We informed our allies and friends of our decision before making it public, but we did not consult with them. We told them that we were going to adopt such a decision and were informing them prior to making it public, but we did not ask for their advice.

[Question] How long will the decision remain in force?

[Answer] We will not tire and will not let up. The day will come when we will definitely triumph over them.

[Question] Does your position as commander of the Arab revolutionary forces mean that any operation undertaken by an national leadership faction is subject to your prior approval or can certain operations be carried out on the sidelines as part of the faction's own program without checking with you?

[Answer] Leadership does not mean going into details and approving everything. This is the job of the field command whereby the commander approves each individual operation. My command is not a field command, but rather a political, revolutionary, national one aimed at mobilizing the political, revolutionary, and national effort for the sake of liberation and unity. As for the means of implementation and target selection, they are part of the private program of each organization and may be part of its secrets, and therefore we cannot ask the organizations to tell us about them, nor do we give ourselves the right to know about them.

Suicide Teams' Mission

[Question] During the session of the popular conference, a heated and intense discussion occurred about the formation of suicide teams. Will such teams operate in the shadow of the current level of tension, or will this role be limited to missions in retaliation for American or Israeli aggression against Libya?

[Answer] The fact is that the role of suicide teams will depend on aggression against Libya or any other Arab country, be it by America or Israel. We, as a national command, represent the entire Arab nation. Therefore, any Israeli or American aggression against the Arab nation will mean, by necessity, the unleashing of suicide teams to counteract such aggression.

[Question] Despite the popular outrage generated by the American-Libyan confrontation throughout the Arab nation, reaction by Arab labor federations and unions has been cool insofar as their failure to adopt severe measures against American planes and ships in retaliation for the American boycott of Libya. To what do you attribute this attitude?

[Answer] This is because the federations and unions have become state-controlled. While we are proud of the massive demonstrations staged all over the world by labor and popular organizations in support of Libya, it is regrettable that such action was not undertaken in the Arab nation because of the official character of such organizations.

Workers and organizations demonstrated around American embassies in many places, clashing with their own police, except in the Arab nation where the governmental theory is supreme; hence, our struggle is to replace it with the popular theory.

No Mediation, No Truce with Egypt

[Question] How true are the news reports about a Sudanese role between Libya and Egypt?

[Answer] No, no, they are groundless. We are not looking for any kind of mediation with Egypt. Meeting with Egypt is conditional on a one-point agenda: to discuss its departure from the [Camp] David stable. This must be made perfectly clear.

We will not accept mediation and will not accept a truce. We will tighten up our boycott measures against it and will make all those who try to lift the blockade pay the price, be they individuals or countries.

Any individual or state that invests in Egypt to help it counteract the effects of the Arab boycott imposed by the Arab League is considered to be working against the Arab will and the sacred national cause.

[Question] Then how do you explain Libyan support of the new Sudanese government that has maintained its special relations with the Egyptian regime?

[Answer] Everything in Sudan is temporary now. There is no fixed policy because there is no fixed authority.

The 6 April revolution has been put on hold temporarily because a temporary military council has come to power and has set up a provisional government. In other words, everything in Sudan now is provisional, based on the triumph of the 6 April revolution and the people. Consequently, we will naturally be on Sudan's side at this stage, because we are on the side of its popular revolution which has created the present situation. But when the temporary situation comes to an end and the people's authority is established, it is certain that there will not be any kind of relations with any regime that recognizes the Israeli enemy, be it Egyptian or any other rule.

We will be on Egypt's side when it assumes its leadership of the liberation and unity battle, as it did in 'Abd-al-Nasir's time. But when it leads apostasy and defeat, we will not support it, neither in Sudan nor in Libya nor anywhere else in the Arab nation.

This Is Our Position on Events in Aden

[Question] Libya's position on events in Democratic Yemen has not yet been classified. Can you shed some light on this matter?

[Answer] Information we have received so far says that the fighting has actually stopped, but the country is still sitting on a time bomb.

Unfortunately, there is a possibility that the fighting will resume and this will be regrettable and painful.

We have regretted the outbreak of fierce fighting in Aden that claimed thousands of victims whose blood would have been enough to liberate Palestine or fully liberate the area surrounding Yemen.

It is not easy, however, for anyone to respond to people who have destroyed their country in such a fashion. What kind of assistance can be offered so long as they have recklessly destroyed their civilian targets with strategic missiles?

In general, the new forces in Yemen are unknown to us. We have heard one or two names we know, such as 'Ali Salim al-Bid. The fact is that he is a young revolutionary and our friend. I met him personally at the summit conference which was held before 'Abd-al-Nasir's death. The man has come to Tripoli several times, and I have come to know him well through these visits. I consider him a personal friend, and he is the only second- or third-line leader whom we in the Libyan leadership know and consider a friend. Nonetheless, we are not sure whether he is actually running the show or whether he is merely a figurehead because the names we know are gone. 'Ali Nasir is out of power, and 'Ali Antar, Salih Muslih, and 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il have been killed. These were the leaders we knew, but the new names are unknown to us. We hope that the brothers in Yemen will keep Yemen as a revolutionary country opposed to reactionism and imperialism and serious about realizing Yemeni unity, liberating Muscat and Oman, and not betraying the revolution.

If there is a danger of resumed fighting, I call upon all sides to negotiate. We in Libya declare our readiness to mediate between 'Ali Nasir and the rest of the brothers so that they will not once again turn to arms to settle their differences.

Oil War, Gulf War

[Question] The Jamahiriyah has witnessed massive movement at the oil price level. Have you arrived at a plan to deal with this situation?

[Answer] I view the subject of oil as a matter of a real war which is very destructive. It is no less significant than the war of planes and warships that destroy factories and the economic effort of any country.

This war is directed against Libya, Iran, and Algeria. These three countries have suffered great harm. Those who have declared the oil war on these countries are as bad or worse than those who have declared military war.

Before I shed light on the most serious point in this question, I would like to go back to some of the beginnings. We know that Saudi Arabia was not responsible for this matter in its early stage because the excesses that have created the current oil situation were committed by other Arab countries, notably Iraq, and some OPEC members such as Nigeria at earlier times, and some Arab emirates such as al-Shariqah and Abu Dhabi; I exclude Dubayy. These countries acted outside the organization, exporting their oil at the whim of the rulers in any quantities and at any price.

These countries are the ones that violated the production level of no more than 16 million barrels a day. Saudi Arabia had warned repeatedly against the dangers of such practices on the future of the oil market, but no one paid heed. Now it has absolved itself of this commitment and has begun flooding the oil market.

Now, Saudi Arabia is responsible for everything that is happening, but the reason was that those countries failed to abide by the set quotas. Saudi Arabia, by its recent behavior, is committing the same sin, even though I exonerate it and stand by it because it always used to cry out against production and price manipulation, but the others used cunning to sell above their quotas at low prices. But the Saudi step has had serious consequences on countries such as Libya, Algeria, and Iran. If Saudi Arabia does not return to its quota of 3 million barrels or less, the situation will deteriorate. Here I would like to reveal an important secret which is that the recent stage of the ongoing Gulf war was in reply to this situation. I warn the Gulf oil-producing countries that this war will spread and escalate unless all parties reduce production to the allowable levels.

We in Libya, Algeria, and Iran cannot face the oil war against us with silence. Therefore, the Gulf war will escalate through new outbreaks unless prices and quotas are honored.

I had predicted this to the Italian newspaper, STAMPA, but they neglected to publish it. Before Iran crossed the Shatt al-'Arab, I said that if prices were not adjusted and excessive production was not halted, a serious escalation in the Gulf war would take place in a few days.

Today I predict through AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI that the war will escalate and spread to include all oil-producing countries in the area if the Gulf oil-producing countries do not stop the price and production war, because this war against us is very dangerous. They are waging a war against our livelihood, the health of our elderly, and the education of our children. This we will not allow.

American Looking for Bases in Chad

[Question] Once again, Chad has returned to the limelight. What is your position following France's compliance with Hissein Habre's request for French troops in Chad?

[Answer] I concluded a friendly agreement with Mitterand in Crete based on the following points:

1. Libya and France would abstain from sending military troops to Chad, regardless of the developments.

We expected Goukouni and Habre to keep up their struggle because struggle in Chad is tribal, sectarian, and racial, and regardless of the duration and intensity of the conflict, Libya and France must abstain from sending in their troops.

2. Should French or any other foreign troops enter Chad, Libya would have the right to return its troops to Chad.
3. France and Libya would make every effort to find a peaceful solution to the Chadian problem and to push the warring parties to negotiations.

Since that time, we have made exhaustive efforts to solve the Chadian problem by peaceful means and by urging the parties to negotiate. We have succeeded in convincing some of our friends to negotiate with Habre, such as General Jibril Juko and others. They have, in fact, negotiated with Hissein Habre, but we were surprised by the sudden outbreak of fighting since we in Libya were preoccupied with the sea and our confrontation with America.

We learned later that Goukouni had uncovered an imperialist ploy to establish Habre firmly in Chad and a plan to build American bases in the heart of Chad.

The United States has informed France of its desire to set up military bases in Chad in view of the fact that France has bases in the Cameroon and Central Africa, around Chad, in addition to its bases in Gabon and the Ivory Coast, and therefore does not need bases in Chad. Its troops in its African bases are capable of operating inside Chad at any time.

The fact is that the United States is now building a base in Niger and is getting ready to build another one in Chad. When Goukouni discovered that his country was going to be sold and that Line 16 was a permanent line dividing Chad into two countries, and at a time of tense relations between us, he undertook to attack at his own risk.

The attack was launched at a time Goukouni considered to be ideal for him following his success in unifying the political front after exhaustive meetings held in Benin, Brazzaville, Algeria, and finally Barday. The unification of the political front led to the formation of a new government and the organization of forces to an extent that prompted Boukouni to believe that continuation of political inaction meant surrender to Habre and subjugation to America and France. Such was his conviction which he based on documents and information he had obtained from Ndjamena, so he relied on himself and waged his attack of which we became aware after it had happened.

This is what prompted us not to support him in any way in this war. We called upon all sides to return to peaceful negotiations, but France at this point surprised us with an air attack on the Doum Airport, which is far from any military positions and has nothing to do with the war effort. The Doum Airport is the only civilian airport in northern Chad used to receive medicine and food. It is common knowledge that most of the aircraft that use this airport belong to the Red Crescent and the Red Cross and that it has a large number of civilians and engineers who came under a treacherous French attack.

Worse yet, this attack was said to have been ordered by Mitterand himself. I am surprised that Mitterand would issue an order to hit a civilian airport used by the Red Crescent and the Red Cross to receive food supplies for famine victims in northern Chad.

I did, in fact, try to find an excuse for the French president, saying that perhaps he was the victim of misinformation about the purpose of this airport and perhaps he had regretted his action after receiving confirmed reports that the airport was a civilian one. He was misled once again when he was informed that the airport had been totally destroyed, while in fact it had not, and the raid was a failure, as evidenced by the fact that Red Crescent planes have not stopped using it, even though some Red Crescent personnel are hesitant to use it for fear that France may commit the same hideous mistake.

Moreover, everyone knows that Goukouni a short time ago received fighters and held a graduation ceremony for his pilots. Here they are, today at dawn, retaliating against the French raid with a successful raid on the Ndjamena Airport because the Doum Airport is this airport's counterpart. There is a government in the north and a government in the south, and so long as France has given itself the right to try to destroy the Doum Airport, Goukouni has the right to destroy the Ndjamena Airport.

We Will Go On Working for Unity

[Question] We come to your eternal concern, unity. A few days ago, talks about unity were held with Algeria, and there have been news reports about successful discussions with Damascus. What is new on this front?

[Answer] I expect the Algerian talks to culminate in a declaration of unity in the next few months.

[Question] Do you not think that unity with Algeria will reflect on your unity with Morocco?

[Answer] On the contrary, the two unions complement each other, and I perceive in them a confederation among Arab Maghreb countries.

[Question] But don't you think that unity with Algeria will lead to some kind of contradiction with Morocco?

[Answer] No, this will never happen. The Arab-African Federation with Morocco has achieved significant successes and has the strength to go on. The Oujda Agreement allows Morocco and Libya to unite with other countries. Our unity with Algeria, besides our unity with Morocco, will be, as I have already mentioned, a step toward a confederate union among the Arab Maghreb countries. We hope through the two unions to arrive at a solution to the Saharan problem so that we may direct all our weapons at the Zionist enemy.

[Question] What about the Syrian side of the union?

[Answer] The Union of Arab Republics, which includes Libya, Syria, and Egypt, will be modified to make it more effective. I expect to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad soon here in Libya to announce a kind of advanced unity within the framework of the Arab Republics Union.

[Question] Where will Egypt fit in this union?

[Answer] Constitutionally, we consider Egypt to be a member of this union, and we will fulfill our obligations toward Egypt in accordance with the Union's constitution which was approved by the Egyptian people through a referendum.

[Question] What do you mean by fulfilling constitutional obligations toward Egypt?

[Answer] I repeat what I have just said, Egypt is a member of the Union of Arab Republics, and the Union's constitution set forth certain obligations towards Egypt which we will fulfill in accordance with constitutional principles.

[End of interview]

I thanked the leader of the September Revolution for giving me the chance to interview him and for singling out AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI to divulge serious information and significant points. I took leave of the man who is always full of surprises because he always sticks to clarity and hangs on to the dream.

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LIBYA

MONOPOLY OF AGRICULTURE BLAMED FOR EXTORTIONATE PRICES

Tripoli AL-AMN AL-SHA'BI in Arabic 2 Mar 86 p 10

[Article by Abu Ayman: "Will the Craft of Farming Turn into Trading and Brokerage?"]

[Text] The scientific solution presented in the Green Book is to destroy all classes by eradicating monopolies of all kinds.

Farmers, for instance, monopolize agricultural production. As long as agriculture is produced only by a specific group of people then that group monopolizes agricultural production and exploits society because it alone produces that production or monopolizes that kind of work.

It is obvious that any one of us could control the output of a machine and the price of agricultural goods if one could monopolize production and monopolize marketing. Farm goods are inexpensive at the people's market--cheaper than those sold directly by the farmer. The market is the society that absorbs the difference. That is to say, the market is exploited by the peasant who sells in whatever fashion he pleases. It is difficult to put a value on the effort expended in that production. It is also difficult to estimate the cost of production of any commodity because monopoly is always the deciding factor. A person who is sole producer and who monopolizes that item will have final say in the matter.

Such monopoly and exploitation continue because farmers monopolize farm goods and exploit society. It would be proper if each of us were able to cultivate whatever vegetables he consumes.

Export would then mean that the farmer sells to foreign markets whatever produce he can not consume. This would terminate the society of exploitation.

It is noticeable that some farmers have turned into merchants and middlemen who seek a profit and are intent on making money or accumulating savings utilizing the techniques of exploitation and free trade now that they are allowed the freedom of selling their farm goods without regulation or control. A new trend by those farmers turned merchants and middlemen is their insistence on selling wholesale only and their refusal to sell retail to

the consumer. This is a new call to revive trading methods and resurrect the class of middlemen, exploiters, and opportunists.

This trend aided the inconsistency of brokers who are now making clandestine deals with farmers and then selling their produce at extortionate retail prices. This is considered a grave violation of the principle of the new socialist system whose objective is to fight monopoly and exploitation.

Who, then, is responsible for controlling this extortionist phenomenon? What is the role to be played by the Municipal Guard? Will the consumer always fall prey to wolfish brokers and extortionists, and even to the producers themselves?

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CSO: 4504/245

LIBYA

SECURITY BARS ON SHOPS CRITICIZED

Tripoli AL-AMN AL-SHA'BI in Arabic 2 Mar 86 p 10

[Article by Abu Ayman: "The Phenomenon of Bars and Iron Gates"]

[Text] Iron bars and gates have proliferated in the various markets, establishments, corporations, banks, and even bakeries and homes in all villages and cities of the Jamahiriyah.

This phenomenon has come to project a shameful image that defaces the beauty of the towns and villages and reflects negatively on the state of security and the lack of order in the country.

To set eyes on that ugly scene gives the impression that security is lacking and that crime and deviation are rampant.

"Freedom is endangered by disorder." One might inquire as to the reasons for such extreme precautions. Have feelings of fear of the spread of crimes of theft and assault reached this point? Is it in a dangerous form?! Has theft spread and encompassed the towns and villages or has this method been followed in order to find lame excuses which are not based on factual and subjective studies.

If there is indeed fear that these banks, shops, and other establishments will be subjected to waves of crime, where then is local self-policing to be implemented under conditions of that sort? Why aren't the owners, producers, and workers of these vital establishments rushing to volunteer with the local people's security forces? Aren't they responsible for establishing order and protecting these markets, organizations, etc.? Isn't law and order the responsibility of all citizens, male and female?

We are bitter and ashamed at the spread of this debasing phenomenon of iron bars and gates over the doors and windows of various vital establishments, even bakeries and homes, not do mention tobacco stores.

This phenomenon can have only one of two explanations.

First: That there is a lack of law and order and that crime and deviation are widespread and difficult to control.

Second: That society suffers lapses in civilization indicated by lack of respect for law and order by certain of the citizenry.

The Jamahiriyah society, which preaches a new human civilization, does not condone such behavior that reflects the lack of civilized consciousness and intellectual perception.

Remove, then, these shameful and ugly coverings on the doors and windows of your socialist establishments, companies, markets, and banks! Replace them instead with strengthened self-policing and deeply-rooted local people's security to ensure public safety and order.

You are a people that are creating the new civilization and are bound by your Islamic values and religious morals. Don't waste your money on falsehoods. Remember that the lack of law and order puts freedom in danger.

12945/12951

CSO: 4504/245

MOROCCO

GOVERNMENT, UNION REVIEW RETIREMENT, WAGE ISSUES

Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 15 Mar 86 p 5

[Article: "Study of the Subjects of Retirement, National Social Insurance Fund Membership and Monthly Wage Payments"]

[Text] The secretary general of the the Morocco General Federation of Workers' National League of Workers and Government Cooperation Employees held a meeting with the director of national cooperation in the central department in the presence of the assistant directors and chairman of the employees' department. During this meeting problems which are still pending and for which solutions have not been found by the administration were presented, especially that of retirement in the case of employees who have become uncertain of their future. The director of national cooperation stated that he had not received the ministry's reply to his correspondence regarding old employees' continued membership in the National Social Insurance Fund and the membership of employees who were hired beginning in 1974. The secretary general of the league requested the director of national cooperation to facilitate the process of joining the two funds or to have everyone join the National Social Insurance Fund, which has expressed agreement to register employees as of the date of employment. On the other hand the secretary general of the league also raised considerations involving the membership of employees in the mechanography department. The director asserted that the employees would make use of the benefits of this department starting May this year and all employees would be given a hiring number. As regards personnel in the educational and social centers, a wage raise of 200 dirhams a year has been determined, which also provides a reduction in the gap between training and minimum operating personnel wages. The officials will benefit from their annual grant at the end of March 1986. Regarding the appointment decrees our brothers Mohamed Karfaly, Mohamed Loauni, Hafsa Yamlaoui, Malika Ghazali and Mostapha Grine received, the director of national cooperation promised to study this problem. One should bear in mind that they they were informed of their appointment starting 1 March 1985 and have not had the benefit of any compensation. Concerning the delay in wage payments, the director once again gave instructions that the people concerned should receive their wages at the end of each month rather than 3 months; the wages for the month of February were actually sent by the department to the various delegations by insured mail on 5 March. The secretary general of the league also

addressed himself to the problem of transportation on behalf of the people working in the central department and requested that the employees be treated fairly and that haste be made in resolving their administrative status so that they could become assured about their future. The director promised to send the points enumerated to the people concerned beginning this year. The promotion process will be completed this month, and he agreed to the establishment of a transitional process in which every employee who wanted to be transferred would participate while a committee would be formed to study the applications of interested persons in the central department at the end of the year.

11887

CSO: 4504/238

MOROCCO

BRIEFS

FORCIBLE ALGERIANIZATION OF NATIONALS--Well-informed sources in Paris have pointed out that Algerian authorities are applying pressure by various means, including bargaining, to make Moroccan personnel in the form of engineers, architectural engineers, doctors and so forth resident in Algeria apply for Algerian citizenship. These sources cited for example the situation of a construction engineer who when he expressed his desire to return to Morocco was compelled to work for a period of 5 years in the Algerian department under the penalty of payment of a sum equal to 5 million dirhams. Other Moroccan citizens who are not wanted are compelled to leave Algeria in various ways. These sources observed that the only consolation for Moroccan citizens are the sentiments of love and fraternity the brotherly Algerian people, who hope for the normalization of relations between the two countries, feel for them. Regarding the economic situation in Algeria, these sources pointed out that the high cost of living has reached a disconcerting level. They pointed out, for example, that the per-kilogram price of meat comes to 100 dinars, that of tomatoes to 40 dinars, onions to 50 dinars, sugar to 25 dinars and tea to 40 dinars and that of 5 liters of oil to 100 dinars. Flour and fruit are not to be found in the markets. These sources asserted that in the face of this situation, which portends danger, the Algerian authorities found no solution but to spread rumors to the effect that the economic situation in Morocco is wretched. [Text] [Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 14 Mar 86 pp 1, 3] 11887

CSO: 4504/238

TUNISIA

PARIS-NETHERLANDS, ARAB INTERNATIONAL BANKS SIGN AGREEMENT

Tunis DIALOGUE in French 10 Mar 86 pp 26-27

[Article by Chokri Gharbi: "Confidence in Tunisia"]

[Text] The Tunisian visit of Jean Yves Haberer, chairman of the board of the Paris-Netherlands Bank and formerly general director of the French Treasury, fit into the framework of the bonds of cooperation established between that institution and the Arab International Bank of Tunisia (BIAT) and was crowned by the signing of an agreement protocol. According to the agreement, the Paris-Netherlands Bank would have 6 percent of the shares in the BIAT.

At the conclusion of the signing ceremony, Haberer and Mansour Moalla, founder and honorary president of the BIAT, gave a press conference at the BIAT headquarters in Tunis, which was attended by Mokhtar Fakhfakh, chairman of the board of the bank.

On that occasion, Moalla described the activities of the BIAT briefly. The bank has capital totaling 10 million dinars and will soon celebrate its 11th anniversary.

"This bank employs 1,100 persons," Moalla emphasized, "and on the average will hire 100 every year. The BIAT, which has 33 branch offices throughout the country, plans to increase that number to 50 by 1987. The BIAT is the third-ranking bank in size after the Tunisian Banking Company (STB) and the National Bank of Tunisia (BNT). In addition, the BIAT has granted long-term credits to some 2,400 enterprises."

Moalla concluded his remarks by thanking the chairman of the board of the Paris-Netherlands Bank for the confidence he has demonstrated in the BIAT and in Tunisia.

That institution has just increased the number of BIAT shareholders, which already include five internationally known Arab institutions, to wit: the Qatar National Bank, the National Commercial Bank of Jedda, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East and El Ahly Bank of Kuwait. They also include three major French banks: the Central People's Banks Fund, the Marseilles Credit Company and the Neuflize Schlumberger Mallet Bank.

These foreign firms hold a total of 40 percent of the BIAT shares, with the remaining 60 percent owned by Tunisian individuals or corporations.

Advantages

Speaking next, Haberer gave an overview of the Paris-Netherlands Bank, which has capital totaling 60 million French francs (some 6 billion dinars) and employs 30,000 persons. It mainly deals with industry and major projects. The bank is among the most prestigious institutions in the world. It is motivated by the desire to promote, thanks to its network of 1,200 branch offices located in over 60 countries, financial operations between its various international partners.

11,464
CSO: 4519/87

TUNISIA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic Feb 86 pp 48-49

[Interview with Ali Hedda, chairman of the Agency for Investment Development, by unnamed correspondent; "Ali Hedda, chairman of Agency for Investment Development, in Tunis: 'Industrial Decentralization Has Become A Reality'"; in Tunis, no date specified]

[Text] Since his appointment as chairman of the Agency for Investment Development about a year ago, Mr Ali Hedda has acted quickly to attract investment in the industrial sector in Tunisia. These efforts were capped by the First International Exposition for the Auto Parts Industry (SICAT) held last December, which was more successful than had been anticipated, at both the organizational and productivity levels. Mr Ali Hedda was appointed chairman of the Agency for Investment Development at the end of last year. The following is a conversation with him about the Agency for Investment Development.

[Question] What is the Agency for Investment Development's role in guiding investors toward projects for renewal being undertaken by Tunisia?

[Answer] With respect to the basic role played by the manufacturing industry sector, whether at the level of creating employment opportunity or the level of developing production, the Agency for Investment Development tries to improve the nature of development efforts in industry by improving surplus value, the absorption ratio, by increasing export capacities, and by more comprehensive regulation of new technologies, particularly undertaking work vital to industrial decentralization, which by nature participates in establishing regional balance.

Therefore, the agency has prescribed for itself working methods and means to better develop and encourage projects in the industrial sectors that have priority.

At the level of development, the agency has been able to establish various contacts with a great many owners of corporations and projects in many industrialized nations, thanks to a policy based on orderly participation in the major international expositions and prompt participation in industrial exhibitions.

Domestically, we have doubled our concern for industrial decentralization, which has now been realized due to the efforts of the Agency for Investment Development, at the inspiration of directives from the government of President Bourguiba and his prime minister, Mr Mohamed Mzali, to reinforce the movement toward decentralization. This is to further our agency's presence in all governorates of the country and to entrust the sanctioning of projects to the regional councils. This major step shortens the time required and speeds up completion of industrial projects in the interior areas.

[Question] How do you assess the movement of capital in Tunisia? What are the areas preferred by Tunisian, Arab, and foreign investors?

[Answer] Tunisian industry has made great strides since independence, thanks to enormous efforts that resulted in the establishment of the major basic industries during the sixties. Further, the favorable laws and the organizational structures which were enacted during the seventies have had great impact on the development of Tunisian industry. However, there is fear of inertia if we do not contemplate aid to industrial entrepreneurs to urge them to increase cooperation so that we can guarantee improved utilization of currently existing equipment and materials and absorption of all of their capabilities and capacities. By this we spare the trade balance as a proportion of the deficit and we spare industry the swelling and accumulation of equipment in limited sectors.

The areas that are preferred by Tunisian and Arab investors are, primarily, the pledge of incentives offered by Tunisian laws and our ability to evaluate and study the sectors and identify the projects that are of joint concern.

Concerning Arab North Africa, the first years of the sixth 5-year plan have witnessed, and are still witnessing, an emphasis and concentration on industrial cooperation, especially with Algeria. This is in the sector of equipment manufacturing, since it goes without saying that this sector has assumed a place of eminence in the framework of cooperative relations with the major Arab and North African countries, which for their part have achieved real economic integration.

Further, the agency has begun to prepare sponsored studies on encouraging and stimulating the process of industrial development in the country. It did this in centralized cooperation with the development banks established by most of the OPEC countries. From here, the agency has helped raise the level of technology, improved the surplus value of industry, increased the volume of exports, and created the greatest possible number of specialized job opportunities in the primary sectors, paving the way for the success necessary for the second stage of industrializing the country.

[Question] The united Arab report has charged that officials have focused their attention on the side of industrialization and have neglected agriculture, a fact which has aggravated the problem of food security. Is Tunisia able to reconcile these two sectors?

[Answer] In Tunisia, the state's interest in the farmer goes back a long way, because this sector encompasses half of the country's labor force. First, we had to reclaim the farmland from the French colonialists. On 4 May 1964, President Habib Bourguiba decided to nationalize the land, which was collected into farming bureaus which utilized and developed their potential.

Before that era, the state had introduced farm education at the secondary and higher levels, to give the nation the framework necessary to revitalize this sector.

In addition to seasonal loans and loans granted to large farming projects, work began in the seventies for farm loans with more general distribution, directed particularly toward the small farmers, thanks to the involvement of special funds for farm development. Also, a number of agencies were established to raise the consciousness of farmers and to offer guidance to farmers. The sixth 5-year plan contained unparalleled legal incentives, and the younger men boldly undertook initiatives in this sector and improved the level of production from year to year in all farming operations. Further, the Agency for Development of Farm Investment was founded, whose role is represented in the development of incorporated farming projects.

The problem of balancing the industrial and farming sectors must be drawn up in a staged framework for each sector with the knowledge that the task of development in our country must be all or nothing.

[Question] Do you think that granting investors land on which to build a factory is sufficient to attract investors? Is it possible to insure the infrastructure in the established industrial areas?

[Answer] Preparing industrial lands is one of the important factors in setting up projects. Our experience has confirmed this after following up on projects agreed to by the Agency for Investment Development.

If the Agency for Industrial Real Estate does not have exclusive control of the role of preparing and equipping the industrial areas, then its role seems to be, at the present time, basically to create adequate conditions in the decentralized areas and to keep the sale of industrial land free of the complications that increase the cost of projects.

The laws currently in effect put the cost of the infrastructure in the decentralized industrial areas upon the state.

[Question] What incentives does Tunisian law provide to encourage investment in the industrial sector?

[Answer] The incentives that Tunisian laws provide to encourage investment in the industrial sector are not just found in the legal provisions whose general outlines we will present below, but, further, in setting up a framework concerned about development and furtherance of investment, helping the people who make initiatives with studies and implementation of projects in the best conditions.

More precisely, the task of the Agency for Investment Development is summarized in the following paragraphs.

--Aid to project owners by the creation of dossiers connected with the requests for approval and the requests for financial and tax concessions stipulated in current legislation.

--Undertaking all studies or tasks that by their nature encourage investment in Tunisia. This is done in cooperation with the National Center for Industrial Studies, or any other organization, public or private, Tunisian or foreign.

--Development of every information process intended to communicate the needs of investment and financing and to encourage establishment of contacts among investors.

As concerns the laws that encourage investment, they have been developed in keeping with our industrial situation, so that we have been able to reach our official goals.

The incentives mentioned in these laws are aimed, basically, at creating the greatest possible number of employed citizens and at encouraging industrial decentralization and exports. A law was issued in 1981 granting concessions to projects which were established in decentralized areas in the following manner:

--A grant for every work opportunity provided by the project in the amount of 1,000 dinars per job.

--The state assumes the factory's responsibilities towards the national funds for social security in the first years of the company's activity.

--The state assumes the costs of basic training.

--Exemption from customs duties on goods and equipment.

--Gradual exemptions from taxes on profits.

--Further concessions if part of production is exported.

--Additional concessions for projects whose investment are of importance or special interest with respect to the national economy, taking into consideration the technological level and the high degree of absorption.

The 1981 law which was amended in 1985 has some special clauses on export industries and is almost the same as the system used in the free zones. Among the concessions of this law are:

--Complete exemption from taxes on profit for 20 years.

--Complete exemption from customs taxes on imported goods needed for production.

--The banking system allows non-residents the possibility of not having their income from exports, services, and profits.

-- The companies subject to the regulations of this decree may be allowed to sell within Tunisia up to 20 percent of the volume of their sales from exports.

[Question] What are your future plans in this area?

[Answer] The Agency for Investment Development has arranged a large number of industrial expositions for the sectors. That includes encouraging establishment of contacts among investors and identification of sensitive sectors.

When we organized the International Exposition for Auto Parts (SICAT), we broke into a new sector that has definite repercussions for pushing the percentage of absorption and giving a considerable opportunity for small and medium export projects.

Owing to the success of this exposition and the experience we gained from it in the area of preparing for and organizing the specialized exposition, we are planning a program of other expositions similar to it for sensitive sectors, such as the electronics and technology sectors.

12780

CSO: 4504/237

TUNISIA

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR MEASURES DAMAGE FROM DROUGHT

Tunis LE TEMPS in French 3 Mar 86 p 3

[Article by R. B. R.]

[Text] By a strange paradox of nature, the cold wave that struck Europe last week coincided with an early warming trend and a sandy wind in Tunisia. The drought apprehended for some time already has now become a serious cause for concern. Actually, the shortage of rainfall is nearly general throughout the country. The table below showing the total rainfall for the first half of 1985 up until 26 February 1986 compared with the seasonal norm (average calculated for a century) and with the quantities registered during the same period of the preceding year reveals that the amount of rain has been inadequate in practically all the regions of the country: those of Tunis and Nabeul, but also Thala and Gafsa, which have received only a third of their customary amount.

Other more fortunate areas have approached half of their normal amount or even received more. Such is the case of Kef, Bizerte, Siliana, Sousse de Tozeur and Gabes. Regions lucky enough to receive two-thirds of their normal rainfall should view themselves as privileged, while those exceeding three-quarters can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

In order to measure the extent of the shortage, one might compare the total rainfall registered this year with that for the same period of last year.

As one can see, the gap is as much as one-half, if not one-third or one-fourth. As spring approaches and 2 months away from the end of the rainy season, it is nearly certain that the agricultural season is already seriously compromised. According to the experts, only abundant and constant rainfall during the months of March and April, accompanied by enough cold to ensure the sprouting of plants, would limit the damage. For grain, we shall be far from the historic record harvest of last year (over 20 million quintals). The harvest will even be below the objective of 12.5 m² set for the next grain season.

The sector suffering the most from this drought is undeniably livestock raising. From apprehension, breeders have gone to concern and now outright worry. With the fodder harvest definitely lost and reserves, albeit large, already

consumed, livestock feed already has to be rationed. This situation could last until the spring of 1987 and might entail losses equal to those the sector experienced during the previous drought in 1977. That year, 1.2 million head of sheep and 130,000 head of cattle had to be slaughtered as an emergency measure. At current prices, it would mean losses of 300 million dinars, or one-third of the total worth of the livestock, estimated at 1 billion dinars. Rebuilding the herds, the veritable national patrimony, could take several years.

City	Total Rain 1/9/85-26/2/86	Normal (Aver.)	% of Normal	% of Normal (Same Period Last Year)
Tunis	101.8	337.8	30	123
Le Kef	159.4	340.9	46	83
Jendouba	197.3	313.3	62	111
Mateur	280.7	396.2	70	116
Bizerte	324.6	560.1	57	121
Nabeul	91.7	300	30	107
Kelibia	241.8	369.4	65	149
Siliana	112.6	263	42	97
Thala	99.7	266.6	37	92
Kairouan	156.9	181.2	86	117
Sousse	123.6	214.6	57	160
Monastir	150.1	223.4	67	115
Mahdia	165.7	267.2	62	149
Sidi Bouzid	84.8	137.1	61	114
Gafsa	32.3	101.8	31	174
Tozeur	28.5	63	45	120
Gabes	61.3	143.6	42	218
Medenine	102.3	152.6	67	179

Irrigated market garden crops will not be spared by the drought. The drop in the underground water table, inadequately restored by rainfall, is an inescapable fact.

Likewise, there has been a drop in the dam level, which, combined with an early warming trend in the atmosphere, will result in evaporation and an increase in the salinity of water, leading in turn to lower yields. For other major crops (olives, citrus fruit), the drought will certainly have negative effects.

As for drinking water, information gathered would indicate no cause for concern, although the situation demands increased vigilance.

As we know, Tunisia is a country whose semi-arid climate is characterized by uneven and versatile rainfall unequally distributed over the seasons. These are contingencies from which one can escape through organization and vigilance. For us, drought is a cyclical phenomenon. We must learn to overcome its difficulties through the implementations of an emergency plan, suitable action and the development of applied research so as to adapt the requirements of the promotion of agriculture to the uncertainties of a changing climate.

11,464

CSO: 4519/87

TUNISIA

CROPS, ANIMALS HARMED BY DROUGHT

Tunis LE TEMPS in French 2 Mar 86 p 2

[Article by R. B.: "Livestock Hard Hit"]

[Text] Unless there is constant and continuing rainfall throughout March and April, along with a period of steady cold weather, the grain crops risks being seriously damaged by the lack of moisture, which already looks like a veritable drought. Only a month from the end of the rainy season, some regions, especially those that traditionally grow grain, have not received even half of their usual amount. Such is the case of Jendouba, Kef, Beja and Bizerte. Mateur is slightly better off, with some 70 percent of its normal average. To measure the extent of the shortfall, one must remember that at the same time last year, the surplus rainfall, as in Bizerte, was sometimes equal to the average amount calculated for an entire century. Experts say that not only will the record harvest of last year, 20 million quintals, not be equaled, but one will have to be content with half, the reasonable goal of 12.5 million quintals now being out of reach.

This shortage of rain will affect market garden crops because of the drop in the underground water table, which was not adequately replenished by autumn rains. Likewise, the level of water in dam reservoirs has dropped, resulting in evaporation because of an early warming trend and increased salinity. The latter will necessarily cause a drop in yield.

But while it is possible to catch up with crop production, it is the animals that have suffered dramatically. Nothing more can be expected of the forage crops and it will be necessary to await the spring of 1987 before harvesting anything at all.

Livestock feed is therefore an acute problem. Measures have already been taken and put into effect to ensure a minimum ration for livestock in the different regions. The importation of alfalfa has been decided upon. In order to prevent the speculation that might find a propitious atmosphere in this state of crisis, distribution has been entrusted to the National Farmers Union, in cooperation with regional agricultural development commissioners.

The situation is all the more dramatic because it will take years to rebuild livestock herds, whose worth is an estimated 1 billion dinars.

The situation is likened to the one prevailing in 1977, when the drought resulted in the emergency slaughtering of 1.2 million head of sheep and 130,000 head of cattle (one-third of the livestock), meaning a loss of 300 million dinars. The situation could have been catastrophic if not for large stock reserves resulting from the excellent 1985 grain harvest.

In addition to being part of the national economic patrimony, livestock has an undeniable social importance because the widely practiced small-scale breeding operations provide income and a substantial help to many rural people.

Inasmuch as the drought has become cyclical -- the last one was in 1977 -- we would do well to develop an emergency plan providing for effective measures whenever the previously defined alarms go off. Preservation of this national source of wealth requires serious reflection. It is in fact necessary to set everything in motion and for each and every participant to know his role and carry it out with the required speed.

11,464

CSO: 4519/87

TUNISIA

PAPER REVIEWS DROUGHT AID REQUIREMENTS

Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 15 Mar 86 p 8

[Article: "Tunisia Looks for Urgent Aid To Confront the Drought"]

[Text] In the wake of an official visit to Tunisia which took 3 days, Edouard Saouma, the director general of the Food and Agricultural Organization, stated that the organization would review the request to provide urgent food aid to Tunisia, which has suffered damage as a result of drought, in the coming days.

Saouma stated that he promised President Habib Bourguiba, who received him on Wednesday, that he would do what was necessary in the course of the next few days to meet the Tunisian government's request bearing on the delivery of urgent food aid to thousands of farmers in the center and south of the country because of the drought. Saouma pointed out that there are 90,000 families to which food quotas must be provided in the next 6 months.

Saouma, who praised Tunisia's cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organization, signed two agreements valued at a total of \$304,000 to carry out irrigation, livestock raising and silkworm raising projects and stated that he had also discussed the possibility of cooperation between Tunisia and the Food and Agricultural Organization to help develop African countries south of the Sahara with Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister.

The purpose in that is for the Food and Agricultural Organization to seek the aid of Tunisian technicians, payment of whose wages would be assumed by Tunisia, in some African projects. Saouma mentioned that the Food and Agricultural Organization would not defray moving expenses, as was the case, for example, with Poland.

He stated that Tunisia, before all else, had to define its options and that it was necessary to study the nature of the projects which were suited to this sort of cooperation. Saouma added that this country could offer expertise in areas of agricultural development in oases, date and seed production and agricultural education. He pointed out, on the other hand, that Tunisia's capacity for using foreign aid made it worthy of the attention of the countries making the grants.

He stated that Tunisia, which since its independence in 1956 had benefitted from the sum of \$350 million in the form of Food and Agricultural Organization participation in development, is the country which receives the most aid in the world on a per capita basis, proving the strength and integrity of the optimum way in which this country uses foreign aid.

Saouma took the opportunity of his visit to Tunisia to meet with Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the League of Arab States, whose headquarters are situated in Tunisia. In the league, he learned that officials in the two organizations, which have been bound by a cooperation agreement since 1959, had determined some cooperation agreements between the Food and Agricultural Organization and specialized bodies in the League of Arab States.

Saouma and Klibi also dealt with the subject of self-sufficiency in food, the activities of the committees which have been meeting annually for 11 years on this subject and the possibilities of supporting relations between these two organizations. This cooperation will be included in the agenda of the meeting of Arab and Food and Agriculture Organization experts next June prior to the convening of the Arab council of ministers in the Tunisian capital with the goal of preparing for an Arab food summit meeting whose date has not yet been set.

11887

CSO: 4504/238

29 April 1986

TUNISIA

BRIEFS

NEW AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS ANNOUNCED--Tunis (TAP)--At its regular meeting on Wednesday, 5 March 1986, the board of directors of the Agency for the Promotion of Agricultural Investments voted to approve 27 new integrated agricultural projects whose total investments exceed 12 million dinars. The projects will be set up in the following 13 governorates: Ariana (3), Ben Arous (2), Nabeul (3), Bizerte (1), Beja (2), Jendouba (2), Siliana (1), Kairouan (3), Kasserine (2), Sidi Bouzid (4), Sousse (2), Monastir (1) and Gabes (1). These approvals concern livestock raising integrated with major crops, forestry and floriculture and will result in the creation of 814 new permanent jobs.

[Text] [Tunis LE TEMPS in French 8 Mar 86 p 2] 11,464

CSO: 4519/87

ISRAEL

SEPHARDIC JEWS ESTABLISH PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE COMMITTEE

Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic 8 Feb 86 pp 43-46

[Article by Salman Yusuf: "Oriental Jews Establish a Committee on 'Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue'"]

[Text] A Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue

On the initiative of Prof Sason Somekh, professor of the chair of Arabic literature at Tel Aviv University, Dr Shlomo al-Baz, lecturer at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Mr Latif Dori of the Arab Affairs Center in the Mapam Party, Miss Ashir Daninu, a university student, and others, under the title "Hold out your hand to peace, hold out your hands to Israeli-Palestinian dialogue":

The establishment of the Committee of Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue was declared in the course of a press conference held recently in Jerusalem. What sets this committee apart from the dozens of other mutual understanding, equality and peace committees which have been established in Israel, accompanied by media commotion though they have quickly fallen apart -- we have said, what sets this committee apart is that the people who have ventured upon it are political, social and scholarly figures from oriental Jewish factions.

These factions have been characterized by their hostility toward the Arabs and peace and their support of the extremist political right and Israeli Resurgence, Tehiyah, established by the Knesset member Geula Cohen, member of an oriental Jewish faction.

The Majority of the Oriental Jewish Factions Are Oppressed

What is worth pointing out is that the oriental Jews who belong to families that grew up in Islamic or Arab countries make up the overwhelming majority of the Israeli people, since their proportion comes to 60 to 65 percent of the total Jews in Israel, and the majority of them are from weak, poor classes and are inhabitants of development towns and poor agricultural villages which are a stronghold of Kahanism and extremist fascism, giving the Jews of the Orient who are present in Israel a coloration of hatred toward the Arabs and intense loathing of everything that is oriental and Arab.

However, the coloration the Israeli media have imparted to them applies not to all oriental Jews but rather to a minor portion of them. As to the majority of them, that is a silent majority oppressed on all levels, as it was described to me by Miss Ashir Daninu, one of the people who took the initiative of establishing this committee, whose first declaration was signed by more than 100 oriental Jewish figures representing 50 towns, development towns, agricultural villages and cooperative villages, "kibbutzes," and representing all sectors of oriental Jewish factions who have made their goal, in dialogue with the Palestinian people, mutual recognition and each people's right to live in peace in the context of its sovereignty, in the sense that the Palestinian people have the right to establish an independent sovereign country living alongside Israel. In the framework of the press conference they distributed a statement which said:

"Hold out your hand to peace, hold out your hands to the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue:

"We, the people whose signatures follow, are a group of Israeli citizens belonging to oriental factions for whom the condition of the two peoples of this country, the Jewish and the Palestinian, is a cause of anxiety. We recognize each people's established right to live in peace in the context of its sovereignty. Through our duty to contribute our part to the struggle going on in the country on behalf of peace and democracy, we call for:

"1. Unremitting struggle against all forms of national and factional discrimination in Israel and for peaceful coexistence to ward off racism, which threatens our existence.

"We reject the vile generalization which claims that the oriental Jews 'hate the Arabs.' They do not belong to the leadership of the chauvinist-nationalist camp in Israel.

"The oriental Jews have the ability and the desire to build a bridge between the Arab world and Israeli society and renew a common cultural production whose roots go back hundreds of years, to the time we were assimilated into the East.

"2. An unremitting struggle to reach a peace which will put a limit to destruction, suffering and bloodshed. We turn to the two parties to start political negotiations on the basis of mutual recognition of the two people's right to self determination. Such agreement, in the event it is reached, will guarantee a future of welfare and prosperity for our people and the peoples of the area.

"3. Continuous efforts for the sake of strengthening the dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians who are concerned with developing and caring for peace awareness. In order to promote these goals, we declare the establishment of the Committee of Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue, which will be opened to all people who love peace."

[Signed] The Committee of Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue
By Initiative of the People of Oriental Factions

Jerusalem, 26 January 1986

The Orient Peace Movement

In a special conversation with AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI and in response to a question, Dr Shlomo al-Baz said, "The Orient Peace Movement was established 2 and a half years ago. Its goal is twofold. First it is to fight prejudiced views which hold that all oriental Jews are inimical to peace and the Arabs and support wars and that they are extremists. Therefore, we have sought to show the other side, which is that there is another group which supports peace and is not hostile to the Arabs. We are prepared for settlement and for life together in peace and harmony.

"As to the second goal, that is indeed an orientation toward our group on the part of people who have come from the Islamic countries so that we can explain to them that our future is truly connected to the Middle East region, that we are compelled to arrive at understanding with the inhabitants of the area, I mean the Palestinian Arab people, and that such coexistence is not an impossibility. We previously lived for ages in peace and harmony with the Arabs."

[Question] What the sector of the people does the Orient Peace Movement represent?

[Answer] The first people to establish this movement have been men of education, professors, university students and active young people in the poor sections where they work who are struggling on behalf of social justice and have sensed and sense the complex of linking social justice with peace, since social justice cannot exist without peace, because the two things are connected and it is not possible to separate the one from the other, just as it is not possible to realize social peace while we continue the state of war. Therefore, the real interests of the inhabitants of the poor sections and other classes of society are peace alone, and not the opposite.

Is Extremism Deep-Rooted?

[Question] From my personal knowledge and my meetings with oriental Jews, I constantly observe that they have been trending more and more toward the political right, and it is no secret that they constitute the base of Kahanism, the Israeli Resurgence (Tehiyah) and the bloc. The Oriental Jews also produced the bloc's rise to power in 1977 and they are the bloc's supporters. The question is, do you believe that any movement or committee can lead to a shift in the views of the Eastern Jews?

[Answer] I consider that your question is in two parts. First, you speak as if all oriental Jews are supporters of Kahanism or there are many among them who support Kahane. I say frankly that there are people who support this phenomenon among groups of oriental Jews, but this does not mean that their support of this camp results from their principles (their ideology). There are some reasons [for] their presence there, most important of which are the grumbling and the accumulated frustration among them as a result of political conditions, which has resulted in their lack of satisfaction with their conditions. Today, we see that their presence on the other hand results from their desire to change the regime, not for reasons involving war or peace,

borders or regions; rather, they have sought to change their living conditions by changing the system of government. There are people who believe that the oriental Jews are as the media show them, but I believe that the opposite is correct and that we can explain to them that their real interests lie not in extremism, fanaticism, hardheadedness or intense national extremism, but the contrary is true, because these extremist matters drive peace away, and the more peace is driven away the more complex their problems become.

Intellectuals Support Peace and School Students Support Kahane

[Question] What is the extent of the response toward you?

[Answer] I believe that we are meeting with attentive ears in the educated classes; we find that students in secondary schools support extremism and Kahanism, while we find that their guardians are more inclined to understand the essence of our message. It is necessary to point out that the young people find themselves living in a harsh vortex of extremism which involves not just the people of oriental sects but everyone, in the sense that there is a specific atmosphere and they are its victims. Therefore our mission is restricted to changing this climate and destroying this comparison which the media have created for us, as if we were all this way and we created Kahane. One should point out that Kahane did not come from Marrakesh or from Iraq, from Syria or from Egypt, but that he came from the United States and is a pure Ashkenazi, "a Jew of pure European stock." What is striking is that all the leaders of the extremist right-wing movements are not oriental Jews.

[Question] Aren't Geula Cohen, Abner Shaki and Cohen Avi Dov oriental Jews?

[Answer] They do not number more than a few fingers on a single hand. They are the deviants from the majority. The overwhelming majority of the ideologists are not oriental Jews. In fact, Geula Cohen is a problem by herself. We have discussions with Prof Abner Shakil and believe that we can move his positions to something more moderate since a person who has knowledge of heritage, customs, traditions and history cannot support these sorts of extremist positions, because these two things are contradictory and they cannot be brought together, because the oriental Jewish tradition has been morality, the fulfilment of life, peaceful coexistence, mutual understanding and settlement all during the time we lived in peace, and this is what we must persuade them of. That will not be impossible; we can achieve this, through a deep, long, perseverant educational campaign, because we are concerned with the continuity of these campaigns which we started today with the press conference, and we hope that our statements will find a suitable echo in public opinion, especially since more than 100 figures representing all sectors of the Oriental Jews in Israel have ventured on this committee which aims at peace and a dialogue, and this is very important.

[Question] Today you have declared the establishment of the Committee of Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue. What are the goals of this committee?

[Answer] The goals are as is written down in the accompanying statement, in text and spirit, to arrive at the beginning of dialogue and discussion with

the other party on the basis of mutual recognition and equality as a start along the road. That will be possible only when there is an echo on the other side. We have not yet heard an echo from the other side, and today we hope, especially because we hear a new voice, which is the voice of the oriental Jew, that it will find reactions in the Arab East, and I hope that there will be echoes supporting this initiative.

[Question] Let us dot the i's; what is meant by the other side?

[Answer] On the other side there are attempts to feel the pulse and attempts at immediate or traditional leadership, and there are signs among the young people which indicate their awareness that they must also take a realistic stand requiring mutual recognition and that the step that it is taking is not enough. We are waiting and hoping for a corresponding step to be carried out by the other side; with such a step we will be able to arrive at the common objective. We believe that we are hearing the voice of the oriental masses and this encourages the moderates on the other side to take a corresponding step, because we are orientals who are Jews and they are orientals who are Arabs, and we can have mutual understanding, settlement and peaceful coexistence.

We did not establish the Zionist movement at the end of the last century, but came in the wake of it. We did not establish the state but came to it in the sense that we can be described as people who joined those who came before us. Today, we want to appear as partners in everything, in industry and agriculture and the course of peace also, or even the building of peace, which is what we want to offer.

[Question] Your previous statements are pretty and sweet, but you have not answered the question, which is, who is the other side you are talking about?

[Answer] What is meant is obvious; that is the Palestinian people.

[Question] The Palestinian people alone, or all Arab peoples?

[Answer] For peace in the region, there are a number of steps and stages along the road. Peace with the Arabs who are citizens of the state of Israel is the first step, and getting close to them is in effect the decisive bridge. After that come all the Palestinian people. Of course if there is mutual understanding and rapprochement between the Palestinian and Jewish people, no power in the world will be able to prevent the advent of peace, in the sense that it is not possible to sign peace treaties with Arab countries and ignore the Palestinian people, because that is the sole road that leads to peace, because they are the party to the struggle. We have no struggle with Syria or the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; rather, the struggle is with the people who live alongside us and inside Israel, and the struggle is on land over which we must make a settlement, because that is the essence of the problem.

However, peace with Egypt is very important, and if we reach peace with Jordan this peace could play its part. However, that is not the peace that

is intended and is not the desired peace. We consider that true peace among people comes about as a result of mutual respect, including language, culture and openness on the part of one of us to the other. I want my children to live with the children of the Palestinian people.

[Question] I consider that all peace is contingent on the return of the occupied territories and the resolution of the Palestinian cause by establishing an independent Palestinian state. The question is, do you support or oppose this? Does the committee you have declared support withdrawal from the occupied territories and establishment of a Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel?

[Answer] This matter will depend on the discussion and negotiating stage. Our task, as we declared it in the basic principle, is to recognize the rights of all peoples, including the Jewish people and the Palestinian people, to self-determination. As regards the final agreement, we are not a political movement which has its crystallized programs. We have declared this previously. Rather, our task is to turn a new leaf, and we believe that in the event of mutual understanding and basic trust, matters will resolve themselves. We do not oppose any political solutions, on condition that the Palestinian state you are talking about and its institutions or the people who take the initiative toward it recognize the Jewish people's right to self-determination and a life with complete freedom. This means mutual understanding. I state once again that we are not a political movement or a political party. Therefore, our position in this regard is still unclear regarding borders, the right of self determination or the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Fear of the Orient

I met with Miss Ashir Daninu, who replied in her answer to my question by saying, "In Israel there prevails what we could define as fear of the orient. Although today there is more readiness to assimilate orientals in public and political life, for some reason when orientals make a specific demand or when they glorify their oriental spirit, which appears in their songs, their music, their customs or even their food, we observe that there are people who say that arises from the oriental mentality, and that creates counterreactions in Israeli society in all its sectors and classes. This means that Jewish society is prepared to accept you as an oriental within itself but without your infecting them with the virus of the orient."

[Question] What are the objectives of the Orient Peace Movement of which you are a member?

[Answer] One of the movement's goals is to show the positive aspects of oriental customs and traditions. There are negative features in European customs and culture alongside the positive aspects in them. That is, they view Western culture as if it was the work of God or as if it was something absolute. Israeli society must be aware of and examine both cultures, especially the culture of the orient. I believe that it is a duty that is incumbent on us to acclimatize ourselves to oriental culture, and this dictates that we get to know it from close at hand and all angles as a first step,

because we are being assimilated into the heart of the Middle East, especially since there is a sort of fear about the orient, and we have been turned into an isolated island alien from what surrounds it, although we must live in harmony with the Middle East.

According to my opinion, what I have stated above is a sort of activity for the sake of peace, because just signing a peace agreement means nothing if the parties do not understand and know one another.

[Question] Have you achieved results?

[Answer] Israeli society has started to taste the flavor of the orient, including arts, songs and music, and this is an important step prior to peace. It is a preparation to assimilate Arabs and accept them with their customs, traditions and ideas.

[Question] How would you explain to me the transformation that has occurred among oriental Jews, who have started to despise their past, their customs and the traditions they acquired in the Arab or Islamic countries, and have started trying to imitate the West in a blind, haphazard manner?

[Answer] I do not want to address all the factors that are interacting within them, but sociology would explain this phenomenon, in the sense that any low, poor, oppressed society tries to assimilate all the elements surrounding it and the result is that it drives out its own customs, traditions and original culture, tries to imitate the society it lives in and considers that there is more strength and genuineness in it. Let me mention an example to you. The Jews in Europe despised their Jewishness and gave themselves the label of the children of the religion of Moses. We sense this self-contempt among the oriental Jews in Israel, who try to imitate the European Jews, but in spite of this we must emerge from this suffocating circle, I mean the people of the third generation, who have not endured what their parents did. This generation is more aware and realizes what it wants. Within them we see the spearhead of the camp which we are trying to turn toward peace.

[Question] Do I understand from your statements that the Jews of the orient who exist in Israel are oppressed?

[Answer] One can say that they are oppressed in their oriental element. I am not talking about the economic oppression that the people of poor sections and development towns are suffering from. Rather, I am talking about the abuse of the rights of the people of the middle classes, including university and institute professors and men of education and culture; they are suffering from abuse because they are not able to transmit their culture to students. Worse than that, many of them have ceased to know how to show their oriental culture and traditions, and try to hide them.

A Dialogue with Prof Sason

I met Prof Sason Somekh, professor of the chair of the Arabic language and literature at Tel Aviv University, and held the following conversation with him:

[Question] Prof Sason Somekh, what are the goals of the committee whose establishment you have announced?

[Answer] The goals of the committee are to create a new climate between ourselves and the Palestinian people and create a mutual dialogue between ourselves and the Palestinian people in order to arrive at a situation which will inspire optimism and faith in the possibility of having peace prevail. In the recent period, we note a contraction in the possibilities for peace in Israel and the neighboring countries alike, and people have started to embrace childish beliefs among themselves as if war and the use of means of fighting to solve problems were the inevitable outcome of the situation. Therefore, one of our goals is to eliminate this feeling and show the truth of the matter that there is in Israel a large segment of the people who want and encourage dialogue. Therefore, we want to assert that people in the oriental factions have not been turned into a chauvinist, reactionary camp which raises slogans of violence and hatred of the Arabs.

We are confident that a large segment of the oriental Jewish factions aspires toward peace, aims at and dreams of peace and is doing what is in its power for peace.

[Question] Are you optimistic about the possibility that peace will reign?

[Answer] In times like these, it is difficult for me to be optimistic, because the situation does not call for encouragement, because there are tensions and there is loathing, and people are being killed on the borders. However, if people do not exert efforts they will be turned more and more into pessimists. Therefore we are exerting efforts and hoping to achieve success, because I see the peoples of this region renouncing the notion of self destruction and urging life in peace and good neighborliness.

[Question] Why did you start your activity belatedly, and not start it years ago?

[Answer] This is a pertinent question. In fact, some of us previously participated in a number of political or social movements in Israel, such as the Peace Now society and so forth, but we reached the conclusion that the impression prevailed that the majority in the oriental factions are against peace and I consider that the time has come to deny this criminal allegation.

[Question] Why didn't you join a body such as the Peace Now group so that you could work within its framework?

[Answer] The Peace Now movement is not an organized body, but a group which carries out some activity from time to time and follows a specific appearance. Therefore, they are not a body with an ideology which appeals for a dialogue with our Palestinian neighbors. That is the essential difference between the committee we have established and the Peace Now group. There is no basic difference between us in reality. We consider that one of us is a continuation of the other and a reinforcement which supports it.

[Question] What are your future programs?

[Answer] As I said before, we are not a political party and our approach is not to solve problems but to create a different atmosphere. We want to start with the course of peace and a specific determination between the Jewish people and the Palestinian people so that the two peoples will be confident that it is possible to solve problems if the two parties sit down together and each recognizes the just national rights of the other. If that happens, I am confident that we will reach the desired goal, although the road is long and hard. I consider that every effort made to solve the problem by peaceful means and without wars, destruction and killing is a blessed one.

[Question] Are you forming a program to meet Palestinian figures in the occupied territories or abroad, in order to initiate a dialogue with them?

[Answer] Our first goal is to work among Jewish Israeli citizens to prepare the suitable climate by establishing a giant body among Oriental Jews to take the initiative to raise their voices against war. That is the basic goal, and I consider that this step will be a corresponding one on the other side, which will lead to a shift toward moderation in Palestinian organizations.

A Dialogue with Latif Dori

I met with Mr Latif Dori, [from] the Center for Arabic Studies in the Mapam Party, and held the following conversation with him:

[Question] Since you are one of the people who have taken the initiative to establish this committee for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, I would like you to explain to me your goal as cited in the second section of the statement you distributed, I mean as regards both people's right to self-determination.

[Answer] In this section, we see one section among all those which were cited in the statement you mentioned which is political, because it speaks clearly and frankly about the means for resolving the Palestinian problem and consequently arriving at a just peace with the Arab countries. We believe that without mutual recognition of the two people's right to self-determination, it is not possible to reach peace; I consider that this section contains a very important section and it is my hope that through it we will be able to persuade broad segments of the oriental Jewish masses about the proper way to reach the desired peace with our Palestinian neighbors.

[Question] You previously met with a number of Palestinian figures in the areas or who are living in European countries, including official Palestinian figures in the Palestine Liberation Organization. What is your impression of them?

[Answer] I am happy to point out that the meetings and contacts I have held with Palestinian figures in the occupied territories or in foreign countries have made me confident that the initiative whose message we are carrying is positive. When I informed these figures of our plan to establish this committee, they all blessed this plan and promised to offer us their help. Here I can point out that the first of the steps this committee will take is to

hold a meeting between the figures who signed the publication (the statement) and Palestinian figures in the occupied territories.

[Question] How do you view the prevailing tendencies in the Palestine Liberation Organization?

[Answer] By reading the Palestinian papers and through my conversations with Palestinian figures who are living in the occupied territories or foreign countries, I believe that the prevailing tendencies in the ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organization, I mean the central current under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat, I believe that they are aware of the need for a political solution, although they are suffering from some difficulties which they must overcome. The first of these numerous difficulties is their inability to recognize Security Council Resolution 242. I can assure you that if I were in their place I would demand a conditional recognition in order to recognize Resolution 242. It is necessary to add a section to this resolution which talks about the right of self determination for the Palestinian people.

I would like to recall that about 9 months ago during the meeting which took place in Bonn, on the initiative of German figures there, I made such a recommendation in the presence of Lord Caradon and in fact I expressed this view of mine "bearing in mind that he was the legitimate father of Resolution 242." He admitted that the Palestine Liberation Organization could not recognize this resolution without the addition of a section guaranteeing the organization its right and hoped that pressure from the people would bring about positive results and that the United States and the other countries would agree with this just demand and approve the addition of such a section, which would permit the Liberation Organization to recognize this amended resolution by including in it the section I mentioned, which would pave the way for joint discussions and negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian people.

[Question] How would you describe to me your feeling after you held discussions with some figures in the Palestine Liberation Organization? Did you come out more optimistic or more pessimistic?

[Answer] I came out optimistic. I might mention the talks I held a number of years ago, talks which were dominated by tension and nervousness; however, the talks I held with them recently were distinguished by mutual understanding and ease, because the realization that the only possibility for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian struggle is not by negative means and not by military means, and this belief penetrated into the awareness of the two parties and by itself is a very positive thing. Therefore I am very optimistic.

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ISRAEL

OFFICIALS CITED IN SETTLEMENT VIOLATIONS

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Dec 85 pp 1, 16

[Article by Moti Basoq and Avi Benyahu: "Deqel Circumvented Laws Regarding Settlements"]

[Text] In an official letter, the director general of the Ministry of Housing in 1982, Asher Viner, has accused former Deputy Agriculture Minister Mikhael Deqel of failing to meet agreed upon criteria in the establishment of settlements. In response, Deqel has claimed that Housing Minister David Levy is delaying decisions that must be made to foster new settlements in the territories. These details were included in 10 documents that were submitted yesterday by Yosi Sarid and the general secretary of Ratz, Dudi Zucker, to Police Inspector General David Kraus. As one may recall, they had previously submitted many documents to the police on possible illegalities regarding settlements in the territories.

The new material throws suspicion of criminal activities on the formation of four settlements: Elqana Dalet, Tzofim, Avne-Hafetz, and Sha'are-Tiqva. In their letter to the inspector general, Sarid and Zucker pointed out that these documents show that "Mikhael Deqel used alternative means to circumvent the legality of establishing new settlements in the West Bank. These means did not fit the professional criteria set by the ministers' committee on settlements regarding the finding of sites and the budgeting and planning for settlements."

According to Sarid and Zucker, Deqel brought facts before the government ministries that were not acceptable; he also approved settlements and arranged for promoters to receive government aid even though such individuals did not participate in building settlements. Regarding this, Asher Viner, the former director general of the Housing Ministry wrote on 18 November 1982 to Deqel that "these settlements have no sources of employment or even any minimal conditions needed to assure these settlements a viable existence." As a result, the Housing Ministry refused to approve "investments in settlements whose establishment was not coordinated with the ministry."

In an additional letter to Deqel, Viner claimed that the activities of the Budget Committee, which Deputy Minister Deqel led, did not agree with the management and rules of Israeli lands. The Treasury controller at the time,

Ya'agov Gadish, responded to this letter from Asher Viner, with copies to the then finance minister, Yoram Aridor, and Mikhael Deqel, that he agreed with Viner's criticism. In a third letter to Mikhael Deqel, dated 23 January 1983, Viner wrote that his methods are covering up wrondoings in settlement policy.

Sarid and Zucker also claim that there is suspicion of deceit and fraud surrounding the Elqana Dalet settlement as well as the possible defrauding of hundreds of land buyers. The testimony of several purchasers alludes to the active involvement of Deputy Minister Deqel in this project, as well as his support of an investor who is accused of defrauding clients of nearly \$8 million.

The firm, Ahaliva, which represented itself as the owner of the land in Elqana Dalet, is not registered in Israel. Rumors of the actual country of incorporation of this firm, whose backers are unknown, stretch all the way to Liberia and Kenya. The firm is suspected of foreign currency law violations, say Sarid and Zucker, and that "apparently the company is registered abroad and the location of the owners' assets is in doubt."

The settlement of Sha'are-Tiqva is also clouded by suspicion of defrauding purchasers and dubious accounting procedures, even though the promoters received government support. This project was also initiated under the protection of Deqel.

Regarding the settlements Avne-Hafetz and Tzofim, the legal counsel of the Housing Ministry has said that despite its debts, the company responsible for putting up these settlements is not incorporated in Israel: "this company has not established proof that it is actually the owner of the land on which these settlements were built. There is nothing that can guarantee the pruchasers' investments."

The police investigation of land theft in the territories is continuing and may possibly point in the direction of senior members of Herut. The police are also investigating the activities of a fund established by Herut called "We Are Continuing"; this fund financed the renting of hundreds of buses during the past election campaign that were used to bring Likud sympathizers to territory settlements as part of the "We Are On The Map" Likud party platform. The police have arrested another land seller and are now considering asking government attorneys to press for the extradition from the United States of the brothers Moshe and Yig'al Gindi, who have been visiting with relatives there for the past few weeks.

Yesterday, Claude Malka, who served as an assistant to Deputy Minister Mikhael Deqel and had been arrested on suspicion of taking bribes, was released on bail by the court in Tel Aviv. Malka's bail was set at 10 million shekels and he was forbidden any contact with those involved in the affair.

Defense Deputy Minister Mikhael Deqel, to whom many threads in this investigation lead, will probably be called on by the police to give testimony.

Yesterday it was learned that investigators will probably make use of testimony to be received from former Knesset member Eytan Livni, who had once served as treasurer of the Herut party and was responsible for overseeing all funds. Others close to the affair believe that the investigation may go in the direction of the Tehiya party because of the possible arrest of a well-known attorney considered close to Tehiya.

Today the confinement of Avi Tzur will be extended. It is known that the police had been listening to his telephone conversations and he is being investigated concerning donations made to Herut funds.

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ISRAEL

WATER RESERVES DOWN, DROUGHT FORECAST

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Dec 85 p 1

[Article by David Moshiov, Amir Rosenblit, and Natan Ro'i: "Water Situation Worsens, But Too Early To Speak of a Drought"]

[Text] The continuing lack of rainfall has worsened the water supply situation because farmers are irrigating their fields just as they were in the summer; the Kinneret's water level is 3 meters below normal and water levels are 1.5 billion cubic millimeters below normal.

Despite this, it is still early to talk of a drought because the main rainfall occurs in January, February, and March. A spokesman for 'Meqorot told Davar yesterday that the firm is supplying 2.5 million cubic millimeters per 24 hour period, approximately 70 percent of the rate it supplied during the hot summer months.

Both in the Galilee and the Negev farmers are irrigating their lands; the Negev settlements alone need 750,000 cubic millimeters per day. The need to supply large quantities of water to users during the winter prevents Meqorot from adding water reserves underground for the third consecutive year; there is a 1.5 billion cubic millimeter shortage. The serious water shortage has secondary effects; due to the increased salination of deep underground water supplies Meqorot has stopped pumping water from these wells and has increased pumping from the national pipeline.

The lack of rainfall and rain clouds have prevented the use of cloud-seeding techniques to improve rainfall through the injection of silver iodide into clouds.

The lack of rainfall and the early ripening of crops meant for export to the world market have caused Negev farmers to sustain huge losses due to the restriction on water usage for irrigation. During the year, only 6.4 meters of rain fell in the Negev, in comparison to the average for the month of October, 25 meters.

"Last year we paid 25 shekels per cubic of water, now we are paying 180 shekels," said the chairman of the Negev Agricultural Association, Yitzhaq Nehamya.

According to Nehamya, 140,000 dunams of wheat and barley were planted in the Negev, and a large part of the crop is in danger. The rain that fell in the area a little over a month ago caused the seedlings to sprout, but the lack of rain since then has caused the plants to dry out.

[Inset] "The Forecast: Rain Not Expected This Week"

Uri Batz, the meteorologist at the weather station in Bet-Dagan, is not pessimistic about the lack of rainfall during this season. He does not expect any serious rainfall this week, but does expect rain sometime around the middle of the month.

"What is worrisome is the continued lack of rainfall during November and December," said the meteorologist, and added that "the east winds coming from the Red Sea do not permit the formation of rain clouds; there are also no rain clouds above the southern Mediterranean. If there is an infusion of cold air and high humidity that helps form clouds, then rain should fall about the middle of December. Until then I forecast hot weather."

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ISRAEL

AMERICAN PILGRIMS CANCEL VISIT

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Dec 85 p 15

[Article by Arye Bandar: "2,000 Pilgrims Cancel Visit"]

[Text] The annual visit to Israel of 2,000 Christian pilgrims from the United States, which was organized by the Reverend Jerry Falwell of Moral Majority and was to begin in February, has been cancelled. A telegram sent from the United States to David Frank, manager of the Jerusalem travel agency Trans Global Travel, who has arranged the annual visit of Christian pilgrims for the past seven years, blamed "current conditions" for the cancellation.

"My guess is that the cancellation stems from the negative reactions in the United States to the massacre of passengers from the hijacked Egyptian plane in Malta as well as to the "Achille Lauro" affair," said David Frank. The cancellation telegram reached Jerusalem just days after the publicity surrounding the Jonathan Pollard spy case broke.

"I don't have absolute proof, but I believe that the Pollard scandal had some definite influence on the pilgrims' decision to cancel. From what I know of these Christians from the Midwest, they are very puritanical and moral, but can't really understand the implications of this case. The true influence of the Pollard case will be felt in the future. At this stage, most of the cancellations stem from the recent hijackings, but the Pollard case, in my opinion, is a growing concern."

According to David Frank, there is a wave of cancellations affecting travel agencies that specialize in organizing Christian pilgrimages from the United States. "The cancellation rate is 35 percent greater than normal and is a cause for great concern." Frank has sent a telegram to Reverend Falwell's travel organizers, asking that the cancellation be reconsidered but he has not yet received an answer.

For seven consecutive years the leader of Moral Majority has made an annual visit to Israel, and now, for the first time, it has been cancelled.

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

REPORT ON OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAELI FORCES

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 33 Feb 86 pp 22-24

[Article: "The Armed Struggle Through the Reports of the Palestinian Military Spokesman; 94 Operations Since the Year's Beginning"]

[Text] This is a summary of a string of military operations against the Israeli enemy in Palestine which began with the beginning of the year up until mid-February 1986:

<u>Operations</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Results</u>
Grenade attack on patrol	1/1	Jabaliya	Two soldiers wounded.
Entrance of the enemy army's command blown up	1/1	Jerusalem	Casualties/extensive material damage.
Grenade, machinegun attack on military governor's HQ	1/1	Gaza	A number of building guards wounded.
Grenade attack on patrol	1/1	al-Burayj Settlement	All patrol members killed and wounded.
Explosive charge in police center	1/1	Gaza	Explosives expert wounded, destruction of center's contents.
Rocket attack on Nahariya & Qiryat Shimona settlements	1/1	Galilee	Caused fires and wounded some enemy personnel.
Rocket attack on kibbutzes	1/1	West Galilee	Fires in numerous places.
Shelling of Qiryat Shimona & Nahariya settlements	1/2	Galilee	Human losses.
Machinegun attack: intelligence vehicle	1/2	Lod	One intelligence personnel killed

<u>Operations</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Results</u>
Bus blown up with grenade	1/2	Jerusalem	Bus burned up, number of passengers wounded.
Intelligence center in Rayat Tman settlement blown up	1/3	Tel-Aviv	Material [damage].
Grenade attack: patrol	1/3	'Absan	Two soldiers wounded.
Incendiary bomb: military vehicle	1/3	Gaza	Driver wounded, vehicle damaged.
Bus attacked with 2 incendiary bombs	1/4	Jerusalem	Undetermined number wounded, fire broke out.
Detonation of explosive package in settlement	1/5	Bat Yam	Material losses.
Station near occupation command blown up	1/5	Bet El	Extensive damage to station, two soldiers wounded.
Incendiary bomb: military vehicle	1/5	Jabaliya	Extensive damage to vehicle.
Explosive packages in front of civil administration HQ	1/6	Bet El	Extensive damage to HQ, vehicles destroyed.
Former Mosad chief, Yitzhaq Suni, fired on	1/9	Tel-Aviv	Wounded in his hip and neck.
Machinegun attack: military vehicle	1/11	Nablus	All passengers killed and wounded.
Incendiary bombing of vehicle	1/13	al-Burayj	Vehicle wrecked.
Incendiary bomb attack: military vehicle	1/13	Nazareth	Two soldiers wounded, vehicle wrecked.
Incendiary bomb: vehicle	1/13	Bani Suhaylah	Part of it burned.
Fire bombing: canned goods and carton factory	1/13	Haifa	Factory burned entirely.
Explosive charge before enemy intelligence center	1/14	Haifa	Guard.
Grenade attack: patrol	1/16	Jabaliya	Two wounded.

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Results</u>
Machinegun attack: military vehicle	1/17	Gaza	Number of wounded.
Fire bomb attacks	1/17	Jabaliya	Soldier seriously wounded.
Grenade attack: vehicle	1/18	Khan Yunis	Undetermined number wounded.
Incendiary bomb: vehicle	1/18	Jabaliya	Vehicle put out of commission.
Incendiary explosive charge in two bus stations	1/18	Jerusalem	Number of buses and two stations set afire.
Timed explosive charge inside military depot	1/20	Jerusalem	Depot burned.
Grenade attack: officer's home	1/20	Petah Tiqvah	Contents of home damaged.
Incendiary bomb: officer's vehicle	1/20	Petah Tiqvah	Entirely burned.
Incendiary bomb: police vehicle	1/20	Ra's al-'Ayn	Destroyed completely.
Grenade attack: patrol	1/20	'Absan	Soldier wounded, material loss.
Explosion: security officer's home	1/21	Petah Tiqvah	Number of enemy wounded.
Grenade attack: officer's home	1/21	Petah Tiqvah	Personnel wounded, material loss.
Soldier attacked with sharp instruments	1/21	Jerusalem	Seriously wounded.
Explosive charge inside military complexes	1/21	al-'Afulah	Undetermined wounded, material losses.
Incendiary bomb: military vehicle	1/24	Gaza	Two soldiers wounded.
Incendiary bomb: vehicle	1/24	Khan Yunis	Number of persons wounded.
Incendiary bomb: army position	1/25	Kfar Saba	Fire in garage and ground floor.

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Results</u>
Incendiary bomb: vehicle	1/25	Jabaliya	Vehicle put out of commission, driver wounded.
Explosive charge near roadblock	1/26	Jerusalem	Number of personnel wounded.
Explosive charge: observation center	1/26	Haifa	Number of enemy personnel wounded.
Explosive charge in front of soldier transfer station	1/27	Be'er Sheva	Station destroyed and number of soldiers wounded.
Knife attack: soldier	1/27	Jerusalem	Soldier seriously wounded.
Knife attack: soldier (f)	1/27	Petah Tiqvah- Jerusalem Road	Seriously wounded.
Machinegun attack	1/29	Bab al-Khalil, Jerusalem	Israeli intelligence officer for Jerusalem killed.
Incendiary bomb attack	1/29	Gaza City	Undetermined losses.
Explosive charge	1/30	al-'Afulah settlement	Detonated by explosives expert.
Two grenades thrown at vehicle	1/31	Gaza City	Occupants killed, wounded.
Grenade attack: military transport vehicle	2/2	Jericho	Three soldiers wounded, vehicle put out of commission.
Explosive charge: soldier transfer station	2/2	Jerusalem	Discovered before it exploded.
Bomb attack against two military transport	2/2	Jerusalem	Undetermined losses.
Rocket attack against Israeli intelligence center	2/2	Bat Yam	Two wounded, material losses.
Machinegun attack: police post	2/2	Rosh Ha'ayin, near Tel-Aviv	Two wounded.
Incendiary bomb attack on foot patrol	2/2	Blatah Camp	Two of its people wounded.

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Results</u>
Machinegun attack	2/3	Ra's al-'Ayn near Lod	Two Israeli guards wounded.
Explosive charge in intelligence center	2/4	Ramat Gan	Three persons in center wounded, material losses.
Military vehicle stoned	2/5	Wadi al-Jur, Jerusalem	Undetermined losses.
Bus firebombed	2/6	Blatah Camp	Driver hurt, front of bus destroyed.
Explosive charge	2/7	Industrial district near Nazareth	One of the electric power stations destroyed.
Incendiary bomb: patrol vehicle	2/8	Balatah Camp	Undetermined losses.
Explosive charges planted	2/10	Tal Buyut Quarter, Jerusalem	Discovered before exploded.
Grenade thrown	2/10	Tzfanian Hotel Jerusalem	Undetermined losses.
Bus stoned	2/10	Near Halhul	Two hurt.
Bus stoned	2/11	Near Tubas Village	Two hurt.
Explosive charge in bus	2/13	Bisan City	Discovered before exploded.
Explosive charge: central court	2/13	Haifa	Undetermined losses.
Explosive charges in military shops	2/13	Tel-Aviv	Fires, extensive material damage.
Explosive charges	2/14	Tel-Aviv	Six hurt.
Explosive charges	2/14	Ma'alot Dakhna, near Jerusalem	Two vehicles destroyed and material damages.
Incendiary bomb: patrol vehicle	2/15	Gaza City	Undetermined losses.

12502/13046
CSO: 4404/261

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL UNION OF PALESTINIAN STUDENTS

Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Feb 86 p 7

[Article: "Palestine Students Call for Palestinian Unity. New Student Executive Body"]

[Text] The administrative council of the General Union of the Students of Palestine completed the work of its 31st session (the Martyrs of Hammam al-Shatt session), which was held between the 9th and 12th of the current month, by electing the union's new executive body. During the session, they discussed various aspects of the union's work, drew up a plan to ensure the development of its internal position, strengthened its foreign relations, and increased its informational action so as to strengthen the position of the General Union of Students of Palestine.

The council issued a final inclusive communique on the general national situation, on strengthening the masses inside the occupied homeland, and on the right of the Palestinian masses in the Lebanese camps to bear arms and protect themselves. The communique warned about the danger of the current American role in the Palestinian cause and the Arab nation.

The council expressed its unequivocal rejection of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 because they deny the rights of return to the Palestinian people, their right of self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state.

The administrative council's communique pointed to the extreme importance of Palestinian national unity in support of the Palestinian national program, as determined at the successive sessions of the national councils which are the major weapon in maintaining the national gains and defending the PLO as the sole legitimate representative [of the Palestinian people].

On the organizational level, brother Nasir al-Qadwah submitted his resignation to the council and brother Ibrahim Asad was elected president of the union's executive body. The formation of the new executive body is as follows:

1. Brother Ibrahim Asad, president of the union executive body.
2. Furayz Mihdawi, vice-president, foreign relations.

3. 'Abid al-Zuray'i, vice-president, internal relations.
4. 'Awad Hijazi, vice-president, information and consciousness affairs.
5. 'Adnan Abu al-Hayja, secretary.
6. Ibrahim al-Masri, treasurer.
7. Husayn 'Ajawi, secretary, foreign relations for international affairs.
8. Nur Hijawi, secretary, foreign relations for Arab affairs.
9. Lu'i 'Isa, secretary, internal relations for branches outside the Arab homeland.
10. Wasil Abu Yusuf, secretary, internal relations for homeland branches.
11. Hasan 'Asfur, secretary for information and consciousness affairs.

12502/13046

CSO: 4404/261

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

COOPERATION AMONG ISLAMIC COUNTRIES URGED

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 19 Mar 86 p 6

[Editorial]

THE Islamic Conference Organisation has just approved a long-term financing scheme to develop trade among the 46 member-countries. The scheme, which will be operated under the control of the Islamic Development Bank, aims at an initial capital of \$300 million, from which credit will be available for up to five years to help out with trade in non-traditional goods. These are described as commodities comprising under 10 per cent of a member-state's exports. This is the first concrete step taken after years of discussion on how to promote trade among ICO members and lessen their reliance on the industrialised economies, a problem which Muslim countries share with the rest of the Third World.

The point that the vicious circle of dependence on the developed countries and the latter's consequent economic and political domination can only be broken by strengthening cooperation among the countries of the South has been made often enough: indeed it would not be wrong to say, even at the risk of sounding Western and cynical, that it has become a part of Third World jargon. That would not have been such a cause for distress if it had been coupled with some action to rectify the situation. That unfortunately has not happened. There are many practical reasons why this has been so, most notably the fact that it is not easy to suddenly break out of the trade patterns imposed by the former colonial masters for their own benefit without running the risk of further disrupting national economies. At the same time, however, there has been a noticeable lack of will on the part of the governments of most developing countries to cast aside their colonial shackles. Often, the dominating groups in these countries continue to be those whose interests are tied up with the metropolitan centres of the developed world. It was left to the Arabs to take the initiative in trying to break out of this circle: the nationalisation of the Suez Canal and the oil embargo remain as stirring symbols of the South's struggle for economic independence.

However, there is a time and a place for such gestures. What should have flowed from them was a movement among the developing countries towards economic harmonisation and integration, to join hands to better their lot instead of waiting for concessions from the North. Some limited attempts have been made in this direction—with the AGCC providing a fine, workable example—but on the whole the question of South-South cooperation has

remained very much on paper. If the ICO, which groups such a major part of the Third World, can now really establish a new pattern, it will serve as a catalyst for the developing countries as a bloc. But fingers must be kept strictly crossed. The ICO has accumulated a number of organisations (at least nine, at a quick count) and schemes with little to show for them. Often even the initial sum agreed upon to start a project has not been raised—like the \$25 million promised for feasibility studies for the 'plan of action' for scientific cooperation, despite Nobel laureate Dr Abdus Salam's castigation that no Muslim country had the scientific competence to attain international standards. It is to be hoped that this time it would be different, that the decision to set up a trade financing facility would be quickly implemented and fully utilised by the member-countries. After all, the ICO commands a market of 750 million people, and it would be a great pity if we cannot utilise the immense possibilities thus presented. Equivocation on this score can only perpetuate the present pattern of dependence on the West and widen the economic gap between the Islamic and the developed world.

/13104

CSO: 4400/152

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

NEW OIL DEPOSITS DISCOVERED IN RA'S AL-KHAYMAH

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 27 Mar 86 p 19

[Text]

NEW discoveries of oil deposits are expected in Ras Al Khaimah by year end. International oil companies are conducting an extensive land survey for hydrocarbon structures on land. Results have yielded little but it is expected, new fields will be discovered by the year's end.

According to sources at the ministry of petroleum and mineral resources, in Abu Dhabi, the main producers in the emirate have been offshore wells. Ras Al Khaimah sources are reported to have said that the crude oil currently being produced in the emirate is of the finest quality and it has found a lucrative market in Japan, France, the US and Australia.

Five producer wells in Ras Al Khaimah are yielding some 10,000 barrels a day. A sixth offshore well will be drilled soon in the same region. According to sources, tests are being conducted on the site and the drilling process will depend on the tests.

Informed sources said that the planning of future projects by the government would also be done in accordance with the production levels of crude oil. The present production is insufficient to cover the expenses of development projects. The Ras Al Khaimah government is already supplying natural gas to the Ghalial power plant, a federal government project. Gas is also being supplied free of charge to several other industrial projects in the Khor Khuwair area.

Investments for petroleum projects are largely being revised in the light of the present oil situation. However, the Gulf is still considered by experts to have the world's largest reservoir of crude oil.

JPRS-NEA-86-055
29 April 1986

UNIFIED POWER DISTRIBUTION PLANNED

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 10 Mar 86 p 2

[Text]

By a staff reporter

THE Ministry of Water and Electricity is preparing plans to unify power distribution network in the UAE. The system will be extended later to the entire AGCC region.

According to sources at the secretariat general of municipalities, the plan has been agreed upon in principle by all the AGCC states. It will help curtail production cost and economise the fuel cost in the region.

Discussions have also been held among experts at the AGCC secretariat in Riyadh on ways of unifying sources and supplying electricity from common distribution points. But before the unification of the power distribution for the AGCC, individual members will have to work out their own joint systems.

These will then become part of an integrated AGCC power grid.

Gas turbines

With the rapid replacement of diesel generators by gas turbines, it is estimated that very soon the entire power units in the country will be run on indigenous natural gas. This will lead to reduction in the cost of power generation.

It is expected that along with the linking up of power plants, special line will also be laid out to supply natural gas to homes.

Meanwhile, rural electrification in the UAE has greatly improved in the past two years. Many remote areas in the Northern Emirates have been linked with the main sources of power by 33KV cable lines.

The villages electrified recently in the

various emirates included 103 in Ras Al Khaimah, 28 in Fujairah, 28 in Sharjah, six in Umm Al Quwain and four villages in Ajman.

In Ajman, Umm Al Quwain and Fujairah, the government last year laid out power distribution lines over vast areas. It is to be noted that the Ministry of Water and Electricity manages the generation and distribution of power for the five Northern Emirates only. Both Abu Dhabi and Dubai have their own power houses, and distribution systems. It is expected that the study will initially link power networks in both the larger emirates to those of the others before the integrated system for the AGCC is implemented.

The AGCC has also taken measures to ensure better insulation facilities in buildings in the member states in its drive for conservation of energy.

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CSO: 4400/152

AFGHANISTAN

NINE HUNDRED AFGHAN TROOPS REPORTEDLY CROSS TO MUJAHIDIN

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Mar 86 p 14

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Tues. — Up to 900 Afghan troops defected to the mujahidin in Paktia Province bordering Pakistan last week, Western diplomats said today.

They quoted reports received from Afghanistan as also saying mujahidin fighting the Soviet-backed government shot down six aircraft near Kandahar in the west.

The diplomats said 900 Afghan troops deployed around Khost went over to the mujahidin with their weapons after Soviet forces pulled back into the eastern garrison town, thinking the situation did not warrant their own deployment.

The commander of the troops was later jailed and the authorities searched houses in the Khost area, they said.

The diplomats said they did not know when the aircraft, four helicopters and two jets, were shot down. They said 27 Afghan troops were also reported killed and 90 captured near Kandahar.

The diplomats said Soviet and Afghan forces later bombarded three villages near Kandahar and the mujahidin destroyed 18 vehicles in an attack on a military convoy in the area.

Guarded

They said they had also received reports of con-

tinuing heavy fighting in the first week of March around the western town of Herat but had no details.

They also said that in a new development in Kabul, Soviet-built MI-24 helicopter gunships using flares had begun escorting all Soviet and Afghan aircraft landing at and taking off from the capital's already heavily guarded airport.

Previously, the aircraft themselves dropped flares as a precaution against heat-seeking missiles.

The diplomats reported several mujahidin rocket attacks in the past week in Kabul but gave no details of damage.

Earlier today, a United Nations mediator hinted in this capital of Pakistan that he had found a way to break the deadlock in negotiations on the between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the Soviet pullout.

UN Undersecretary-General Diego Cordovez told journalists the two countries would discuss the withdrawal when indirect UN-sponsored talks resumed in Geneva, which he said would be "soon."

Cordovez said the two sides would inform him shortly whether they accepted his proposals.

Indirect talks have reached agreement on three main points but a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops is held up by a

deadlock over the format of the talks.

"I have received in Kabul a text of a draft of Instrument Four which contains a timetable," Cordovez said, referring to the last item in the proposed four-point peace package.

"I have discussed the substance of Instrument Four with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan. So in a way I am already preparing for the discussion of that very important issue."

Pakistan refuses to

meet Afghanistan in direct talks because it does not recognise the Soviet-backed government of President Babrak Karmal.

Kabul says it has worked out a plan with Moscow to withdraw the troops but will not reveal it until Islamabad agrees to direct talks.

The mediator, who visited Islamabad three times and Kabul twice to prepare another Geneva round, said he was confident the problem would be solved.

/12851

CSO: 4600/271

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

LAND DISTRIBUTION FIGURES—Kabul, 25 Mar (BAKHTAR)—The distribution of land and other necessary assistance to peasants are continuing under the democratic land reform of the DRA throughout the country. About ten thousand land ownership documents were distributed to landless peasants in the Provinces of Badakhshan, Konduz and Konarha during the last Afghan year (ended 20 March 1986). Forty peasants' councils and 17 peasants' committees were established in Badakhshan, Konarha and Konduz Provinces during the same year, in which six hundred peasants are organized to assist the land reform groups and for the improvement of agricultural output. Over two thousand tons of chemical fertilizers and more than three hundred tons of improved seeds were distributed by the government to those peasants who have newly received land in the last Afghan year. More than three hundred thousand landless peasant families received land free of charge in the DRA under the democratic land reform since the April revolution of 1978. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 26 Mar 86 LD] /9274

CSO: 4600/268

INDIA

IMPROVEMENT NOTED IN RELATIONS WITH U.S.

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 14 Mar 86 p 5

[Text]

New Delhi, March 13 (UNI): Indo-US relations have undergone a "major transformation" following the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to that country and certain developments in India, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. R. Narayanan, told the Rajya Sabha today.

The ambassadors have been directed to drive home this advantage not only in the United States but also in other countries as well to project India's image abroad in proper light.

Mr Ramakrishnan, MP in his supplementary, informed Mr Narayanan that during his stay in the US as a member of the Indian delegation to the United Nations, he noted that the Prime Minister's visit had created a "good impact" there.

He suggested that external publicity should cash in on the tremendous goodwill the Prime Minister had generated. He wanted to know how the government proposed to go about revamping the external publicity in the light of the Sen Committee's recommendations.

Mr Narayanan informed the House that even though the committee report was still being studied, certain ad hoc measures on the basis of the recommendations had already been initiated. In this context, he said a foreign service training institute had already been established.

/9317
CSO: 4600/1565

INDIA

ANALYST: U.S. NOT AIMING TO DOMINATE REGION

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 15.

The U.S. has almost completed a five-year project, which was initiated in 1981 in the wake of the Iranian crisis, for improving military facilities in Egypt, Oman, Kenya, Somalia, Diego Garcia and Pakistan for the use of its Rapid Deployment Force in the event of a conflict or confrontation in the Gulf area or Indian Ocean region.

This programme, involving an expenditure of about \$2 billions spread over five years, is not intended to establish new U.S. military bases, except in the case of Diego Garcia, but entitle the American Army, Navy and Air Force to use as and when required the airfields, ports, repair shops, staging facilities and communication links set up at U.S. expense.

Only trial run

The current visit of the U.S. naval flotilla to Karachi, led by the world's largest aircraft carrier USS Enterprise is only a trial run of how the American armed forces could avail themselves of these facilities in the Indian Ocean region. These U.S. Seventh Fleet ships operating from the Subic Bay in the Philippines can be deployed in the vicinity of the Gulf area within a fortnight to supplement the troops of the Rapid Deployment Force that might be flown in from the U.S. itself through the expanded staging posts in Azores and the Mediterranean.

The U.S. has expanded the military facilities, either directly or through the host countries, at Ras Banas on the Red Sea in Egypt, Masira, Sib, Thamarit, Matrah and Salalah in Oman, Berbera in Somalia, Embakasi and Nanyuki in Kenya and Karachi and Gwadar in Pakistan.

The improvements made to the existing military facilities or new construction works undertaken by the U.S. Defence Department include dredging of ports, and building of oil storage tanks and warehouses for naval supplies for warships carrying nuclear weapons and using guided missiles, extended runways, air control and radar systems to accommodate the latest jet fighters, large military transport planes and surveillance aircraft, and adequate accommodation for ground staff to handle such emergency operations.

The focal point of all this activity is not so much the Indian Ocean as the Gulf area with the Strait of Hormuz serving as the main target. As many as four bases have been developed in Oman—at Masira, Thamarit, Matrah and Salalah—in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz flanked by Karachi and Gwadar from the other side in Pakistan.

These military facilities, developed by the U.S. since the Iranian crisis and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, are part of its global strategy to contain any possible Soviet threat to such strategic region as the Gulf with the oil routes passing through the Indian Ocean. These are not aimed at dominating the countries of South Asia as such, since these pose an entire-

ly different set of political problems that cannot be dealt with by a mere flexing of the military muscle.

PTI reports from Islamabad:

An escort ship of the USS Enterprise today entered the Karachi harbour, touching off speculations about Pakistan's willingness to allow use of its strips and shores

for American operations in contingency situations.

Reports here suggest that the aircraft-carrier with two guided missile cruisers, two destroyers and a nuclear submarine was anchored about 8 km from the Karachi city harbour.

The American Embassy in Islamabad confirmed the arrival of the Indian

Ocean task force of the U.S.'s Seventh Fleet on the Pakistani shores for the first time in the country's history but discounted reports that the United States feared a spillover of the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

About 6,000 sailors, including 500 officers, will have rest and recreation facilities in Karachi where the fleet is expected to stay until March 19.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S.'s, Mr. Ejaz Azim, had recently told the Urdu daily *Jang* that Pakistan would extend the same facilities to the U.S. Navy in its waters as it extended to the navies of the other "friendly" countries.



CSO: 4600/1570

INDIA

ANALYST WRITES ON OVERSEAS WEAPONS PURCHASES

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 13.

There is some flutter in other West European countries over India's moves to establish an arms supply relationship with Sweden.

The French are reported to be particularly disappointed with the latest Indian inclination to buy the 155mm guns for the Army from Sweden, besides the purchase of some submarines.

The French and Swedish teams are presently in Delhi negotiating the deal with the Defence Ministry to which they have already submitted their revised quotations. The deal involving the sale of a substantial number of these heavy artillery pieces followed by a progressive manufacture in India of a larger number under licence would involve an outlay of nearly Rs. 1,500 crores.

At one stage India had almost decided to buy these high calibre field guns from France, both in self-propelled and towed versions. But more recently, it was felt by the Government that perhaps it would be more appropriate to diversify India's arms purchases in the West by availing itself of the Swedish offer to supply these artillery pieces in towed condition at competitive prices.

Rajiv's visit to Stockholm: The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, will be meeting the French President, Mr. Francois Mitterrand, besides the Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Andreas Papandreou, the Spanish Prime Minister, Mr. Philippe Gonsales, and the Italian Prime Minister, Mr. Bettino Craxi, when they attended the funeral of Olof Palme at Stockholm. Mr. Gandhi will be leaving tomorrow evening for the Swedish capital and returning to Delhi on Sunday morning after a stay of less than 24 hours in Stockholm.

But Mr. Mitterrand will not let go this opportunity to broach the subject of this artillery transaction before India finalises it. The De-

fence Ministry officials have been busy discussing the technical details and financial arrangements with the French and Swedish teams for the last 10 days, to work out a package deal before the Prime Minister leaves for Stockholm.

Purchase of Hermes: The Indian and British representatives today concluded a memorandum of understanding on defence cooperation under which the aircraft-carrier, *Hermes*, is being purchased with arrangements for refitting it with the latest equipment. The carrier will be reconditioned and upgraded for the use of Sea Harriers within a stringent time-schedule.

The talks with the U.S. for the acquisition of high technology for defence purposes, ranging from assistance in the design and manufacture of a light combat aircraft, setting up of a missile testing range and development of the latest radar systems to acquisition of night vision equipment, advanced computerised communications and reconditioning of tank engines, have run into some difficulties because of the continued American insistence on special safeguards against possible diversions of such equipment. The Government of India, which has been rather sensitive in its responses has become a little more wary after the recent visit of a high level U.S. defence mission.

Soviets keeping a watch: The Indian diplomacy these days, especially in its relationship with the big powers, is being conducted at the political, economic and defence levels, providing a three-dimensional approach to the conduct of the country's foreign relations. The Soviet Union with which India continues to maintain very close links is quite understandably keeping a vigilant eye on these efforts under way to establish a balancing defence relationship with the West, even if it is only on a modest scale at present.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1566

INDIA

DELHI REPORTED INDIGNANT OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN SRI LANKA

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 12.

The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, getting from bad to worse, is assuming the dimensions of a civil war with the Government bent on intensifying its military operations against the Tamil militants and, in the process, slaughtering many innocent men, women and children, despite India's repeated pleas to halt these senseless killings and seek a negotiated political settlement.

The Sri Lankan President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, and his Minister for National Security, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, have indicated to the Government of India both directly and indirectly that they intend to complete the so-called anti-insurgency drive in the Eastern province and also mop up the militants in the Northern provinces, before entering into any further discussions with the moderates on the Tamil problem.

The Tamil militants, too, are reported to be preparing to meet this challenge by stepping up their own guerilla warfare against the Sri Lankan security forces. According to western diplomats, there are 2,000 to 3,000 well-armed Tamil militants operating in the Eastern province and perhaps a similar number in the Northern province, who are bound to hit back at the army and paramilitary units engaged in these operations.

Bhandari's visit unlikely: The Sri Lankan President has made it quite clear during his talks with the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. J.N. Dixit, that he is no longer looking forward to an early visit to Colombo by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, to resume the threads of their earlier discussions. He is reported to have said that he expected Mr. Bhandari in early March and, if he chooses to pay

this visit later, he can fix some time to meet only after he arrives in Colombo and not in advance.

It is, therefore, highly unlikely that the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, will ask Mr. Bhandari to go to Colombo in this tragic situation. The Government of India is not going to send or even receive a special envoy while the Sri Lankan army continues to indulge in this orgy of indiscriminate killings in the name of fighting terrorism.

Deadlock: A near deadlock has thus arisen and the ethnic conflict, it is feared, might worsen further before it can get better in these circumstances. The Tamil leaders, whether moderates or militants, cannot agree to any imposed settlement, since it would amount to a virtual surrender to Sinhala chauvinism.

There is little that India can do in the more immediate context to persuade or pressurise the Jayewardene Government to desist from its genocidal campaign and talk directly to the Tamil leaders to arrive at a reasonable settlement. It has to wait for the sobering realisation in Colombo that, with all his bluff and bluster, Mr. Athulathmudali is in no position to subdue the Tamil minority by resorting to savage repression.

The feeling of dismay that characterised the earlier Indian reaction to the barbarous behaviour of the Sri Lankan army is now yielding place to sharp indignation over the cold-blooded way in which the Jayewardene Government was permitting its security forces to commit atrocities on the Tamil population. The more discerning foreign observers in Delhi have begun to privately acknowledge that there is a limit to India's patience—and Sri Lanka cannot afford to embark on the perilous course of pushing this country beyond a point.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1575

29 April 1986

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS ON SIGNED, PENDING DEALS WITH UK

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

London, March 16 (PTI)—India is understood to have signed a memorandum of understanding with Britain for the purchase of the Royal Navy's aircraft carrier, *Hermes*, in a deal estimated to be worth approximately £60 million.

The British Defence Ministry refuses to answer queries about the memorandum, saying that it would be against their policy to comment on such matters. But informed sources here said that it was signed in New Delhi on Thursday last and that a formal contract for the sale is to follow.

The 28700-ton ship, which had become redundant with the British Navy and was on the verge of being scrapped, left Portsmouth harbour near here yesterday under tow for Plymouth where she is to be refitted before being handed over to the Indian Navy early next year. The ship had been laid up at Portsmouth for two years while Britain was searching for a buyer.

Several teams for the Indian Navy have inspected *Hermes* in Portsmouth before the memorandum was finalised. The latest inspection was by a team of seven officers who have just returned to India after discussing various aspects of the deal, including training of Indian

personnel and details of the refit.

Industry sources said that the *Hermes*, which served as flagship of the British task force during the 1982 war with Argentina over Falkland Islands, was on sale for around £35 million on an as-is-where-is basis. The refit, spares, fittings and training of personnel would push up the cost to about £60 million.

The refit work will now commence in Plymouth on the basis of the memorandum of understanding although certain important aspects of the contract, including the price, are still being negotiated. India is believed to be pressing for a reduction in the price.

Hermes, Britain's largest warship and the last of the conventional aircraft carriers built for its navy, was laid down in 1944 but not completed until 1959. It carries about 1,300 sailors.

The ship, which will be India's second aircraft carrier after British-built *Vikrant*, carries between 30 and 40 aircraft. The hope in the British industry is that India will order Sea Harrier jump jets and Sea King helicopters for this ship once the contract for its sale is signed.

The *Hermes* memorandum was signed two days prior to the £65 mil-

lion deal for the sale of twentyone Westland W-30 helicopters to be used by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC). The Westland deal brings to an end two years of controversy during which India had at one stage decided against acquiring the helicopter.

Another major Indian defence contract for which Britain is making a bid, is for the supply of a new 155 mm towed gun. The contract is said to be worth £700 million.

Britain has made an unsolicited bid for the contract and delivered it to the Defence Ministry on 20 February last. However, France with its Giat TR and Sweden with Bofors FH-77B are believed to be the main contenders for the huge contract.

The British bid is based on the new longer range FH-70R with a 46 calibre barrel instead of the standard 39 calibre version first offered to India. It has a range of 40,000 metres compared to 30,000 for the 39 calibre barrel.

FH-70R, whose development has just been completed, is a tripartite effort by Britain, West Germany and Italy. The bid for the Indian contract is led by the state-owned international military services of Britain.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1577

INDIA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MEETS PRESS IN JAKARTA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Mar 86 p 8

[Text]

Jakarta, March 16 (PTI)— External Affairs Minister Bali Ram Bhagat today said that India would extend help to the extent possible to solve the Kampuchean problem.

Mr Bhagat told a press conference here this morning that India was keen to solve the Kampuchean problem and desired the withdrawal of all foreign forces and a comprehensive political solution to ensure peace in ASEAN region.

India would support steps taken by ASEAN countries in this regard, Mr Bhagat added.

Expressing satisfaction over the detailed talks he had with President Suharto and Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Mr Bhagat said he had conveyed Indias' concern at tension arising due to Kampuchean problem.

Mr Bhagat said there was some misunderstanding about India's position on Kampuchea in ASEAN countries, but now it's a thing of past. India's position for peaceful solution was now understood in this region, he added.

Mr Bhagat said during his talks with Mr Kusumaatmadja yesterday he wished him success in his mission to mediate with parties involved in Kampuchean problem.

India had recognised Heng Samarin regime on humanitarian grounds and put a stop to suffer-

ing in Kampuchea, Mr Bhagat said. "So many lives had been lost there. India wanted to help relieve sufferings there. In view of this India was now keen for an earliest solution to the Kampuchea problem", Mr Bhagat said.

Mr Bhagat said India wanted Kampuchea to emerge as a non-aligned independent country. Till the problem was solved the Kampuchean seat in Non-Aligned Movement would remain vacant, he said.

Asked if Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was likely to visit Indonesia soon, Mr Bhagat said President Suharto of Indonesia and Mr Gandhi had useful discussions during Mr Suharto's recent visit to Delhi. This process should go on and this is what the Indonesian President wanted, Mr Bhagat said.

Now it was the turn of Mr Gandhi to visit Indonesia, but so far no date or schedule had been worked out, he added.

Mr Bhagat said that it was possible for Mr Gandhi to visit Indonesia at a not too distant date.

Asked if Indonesia wanted to host the nonaligned summit after Harare, Mr Bhagat replied that India would be happy at this. Mr Bhagat said any country even if not a candidate could host the nonaligned summit.

Harare had become venue of

the summit because of serious problems in Africa, especially in Namibia. Nonaligned summit mostly went to those who were chosen by consensus.

Regarding East Timor island of Indonesia, Mr Bhagat said India supports Indonesia on this. However, there had been no discussions on East Timor with Indonesian leaders during his visit, Mr Bhagat added.

Mr Bhagat leaves here this afternoon for Singapore, where he will enquire if there has been any loss of life of people of Indian origin in the hotel building collapse yesterday.

Mr Bhagat said that during his talks with the Indonesian President and Foreign Minister it was agreed that there should be a strengthening of relations between two countries and a common approach to international issues.

He said it was heartening to note that Indonesia had promised to play a more active role in the Nonaligned Movement. The political and economic drafts prepared by India for Harare summit were being studied by the Indonesian Government.

The possibility of cooperation between Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was also discussed.

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CSO: 4600/1572

INDIA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

Details of Report

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Mar 86 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 18--India has expressed its concern over the growing military nexus between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the involvement of Israeli and British security experts with Sri Lankan armed forces.

Reports suggesting that Sri Lanka was attempting a military solution to the ethnic crisis, the rapid increase in its defence spending and escalation in the violence in the island are all being viewed with disquiet.

India's concern over these matters has been spelt out in the annual report of the Ministry of External Affairs placed on the table of Parliament today. The report states that the deteriorating situation in the northern and eastern provinces in Sri Lanka has resulted in the influx of 124,000 refugees into India. Apart from socio-economic burdens, their presence, it is said, has added to the strength of Indian sentiments regarding the situation in Sri Lanka.

Though the chapter on "India's Neighbours" opens with the promising statement about the tone having been set by the Prime Minister in January last year soon after assuming office, the subsequent paragraphs speak of the lack of success in the efforts to promote friendlier relations with some of the important neighbours, particularly Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Even regarding Bangladesh, the report notes that legal difficulties are standing in the way of speedy implementation of the agreement with Bangladesh on the leasing of the Teen Bigha corridor and of the persisting problem of illegal influx from across the border. "We have conveyed to Bangladesh our intention to stop this flow by whatever means possible," says the report, which is, however, silent about building a fence along the border.

Referring to its continued efforts to normalize relations with Pakistan, the report notes that India is worried over two matters that had been brought to President Zia's attention by Mr Rajiv Gandhi during their meeting last December--its assistance to extremists and its nuclear weapons programme. Added to this is the unease over the acquisition of sophisticated weapons which had been conveyed to Pakistan on different occasions.

Starting with the Pakistani acceptance of the Prime Minister's suggestion that neither country should attack each other's nuclear facilities (a suggestion reportedly made in view of Pakistani statements that India was planning to attack their nuclear facility at Kahuta), the report ends with the comment: "Since President Zia's visit, there have been unfortunate statements and resolutions relating to Kashmir and minorities in India by responsible Ministers and other Pakistani leaders. The assurances given by Pakistan in respect of its assistance to Sikh extremists have also not been fulfilled."

China

Regarding China, the document reiterates the policy that "genuine normalization of our relations with China can be achieved only when there is a just and satisfactory settlement of the boundary question." Substantive talks on the border question, which began here in November last year without making any headway, are to be resumed in Beijing this year.

The irritants posed by Sikh extremists abroad and the lackadaisical attitude of some Governments have also been recorded. Anti-India activities by these elements are said to be continuously monitored. West Germany has given the assurance that it will control the activities directed against India and that the illegal activities of Sikh extremists will not be tolerated.

It has been stated that while the British Government has taken some steps against anti-India extremists, pro-Khalistani Sikhs and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front supporters continue to be active there.

The report welcomes the desire of the U.S. Government to cooperate in curbing the violence against India. Concern has also been voiced over the extremists' activities in Canada, violence against Indian diplomats and the hate campaign against Indian leaders.

HINDU Analyst's Comment

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, March 18--The concern voiced by the Government of India over the "growing military nexus" between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as stated in the annual report of the External Affairs Ministry released today, is based on solid evidence of Islamabad's increasing involvement in the island's ethnic conflict.

The Government is taking an equally serious view, as indicated in the annual review, of the "activities of foreign security and intelligence organisations in Sri Lanka" especially the Israeli agencies and British "experts."

The report has not gone into the detailed nature of "growing military nexus" between Sri Lanka and Pakistan, but says quite clearly that this follows the visits of the President, Mr J.R. Jayewardene to Pakistan in April 1985 and of Gen Zia-ul-Haq to Sri Lanka in December 1985, on his way back from the SAARC summit.

Higher Defence spending: The sharp increase in Sri Lanka's Defence spending--from Rs 1,977 millions in 1983 to Rs 2,329 millions in 1984 and Rs 5,139 millions in 1985--reflects the heavy arms purchases made from different countries during the last 15 to 18 months, in a desperate bid to seek military solution to the Tamil problem.

The purchases include 21 Bell helicopters acquired through Singapore and converted into helicopter gunships for anti-insurgency operations. The Government of India has reliable information that some of these helicopters have been flown by British mercenary pilots on operational missions. This information was conveyed to the British Deputy Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Sir William Harding, during this recent visit to Delhi.

In addition, Sri Lanka has purchased 12 Italian-made Siai Marchetti fixed-wing military aircraft for aerial attacks on suspected Tamil militant camps in the Northern and Eastern provinces. It has also acquired six Cessna 737 aircraft for surveillance missions.

About 150 armoured personnel carriers have been acquired by Sri Lanka during this period from Israel, South Africa and Britain. An estimated 30,000 small arms, including a large number of mortars, machine guns and semi-automatic rifles, have been obtained partly from China but mostly from Pakistan.

The Sri Lankan Government has managed to get in addition, some 25-pounder artillery, 130-mm medium guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers with adequate supplies of ammunition. Its Navy has been beefed up with the acquisition of an assorted collection of some 60 patrol ships and coastal craft of various sizes.

Disquieting feature: A disquieting feature of the growing "nexus" is that Pakistan is emerging as the most significant supplier of not only equipment but also training, for the Sri Lankan military personnel--both in the use of modern weapons and in anti-insurgency operations.

The Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, was present at the State banquet given in honour of Gen Zia-ul-Haq on December 10 when Mr Jayewardene said that it was his country's policy to "consolidate and strengthen" relations with Pakistan in their mutual and national interests. One of the implied decisions of the SAARC summit was, the Sri Lankan President added, that "regional terrorism" should be contained by unreserved cooperation amongst all its members, who should cooperate with one another on an equal basis to resist "hegemonistic tendencies" in the region.

Special Adviser for P.M.: In spite of all these provocative statements and all-out military preparations of the Sri Lankan Government to crush Tamil sub-nationalism, India is not abandoning its mediatory efforts.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, is being appointed Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Sri Lanka to ensure the continuity of India's good offices even after his retirement this month-end.

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CSO: 4600/1573

INDIA

CPI-M LEADER MEETS PRESS AFTER EXECUTIVE MEETING

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Mar 86 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 18 (PTI)--The CPM general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, today said his party was not working for a merger with the CPI.

"What we have in mind is unity of action," Mr Namboodiripad told newsmen while releasing the decisions taken at the meeting of the central executive of the party which ended its three-day session here on Sunday.

He said this broad unity of action should involve all other left parties and appealed to all left and secular forces to unite in the struggle against the anti-people policies of the government.

The central committee underlined the urgency of the left and secular forces coming together on issues affecting the common man as was done in the 1983-84 conclave of opposition parties and in the recent price hike agitation.

Mr Namboodiripad said he would discuss with the CPI the reasons for improper functioning of the co-ordination committee of the two parties.

The central committee noted that the policies pursued by the Congress were leading to "dissatisfaction and disillusionment" among sections of Congressmen.

"Simultaneously group fighting and factionalism are eroding the authority of the high command and the unity of the party. Group rivalries, corruption and nepotism bring about the downfall of ministries," it said.

The CPM felt many of the opposition parties were opportunistically taking up issues which, far from helping the development of uniting the common people against the anti-people policies of government, would divide the people on sectarian, communal and separatist issues.

On Kerala, he said the political situation there was in utter chaos.

This cannot be ended unless the Congress reversed its policy of sticking on to power with the help of some communal party, he said.

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CSO: 4600/1574

29 April 1986

INDIA

BORDER FORCE IN NORTHEAST BEING STRENGTHENED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Mar 86 p 6

[Article by S. Gurudev]

[Text] Shillong, March 12--The Border Security Force which looks after an extensive international border with Bangladesh and Burma in the northeastern sector, is being strengthened with additional battalions having been allotted to Meghalaya, Assam and probably Tripura.

The force will be modernized with the emphasis being on weaponry and training schedules to deal with the more sophisticated forms of smuggling and trans-border crime.

Mr Arun Nehru, Union Minister of State for Internal Security, who recently visited the BSF headquarters in Shillong, stressed the need for modernization and greater welfare facilities for the force.

The Prime Minister's statement at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh about several measures "to curb insurgency" in the region affects the BSF directly since its battalions are involved in counter-insurgency under the Army's operational control in Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. The BSF in Tripura has its own headquarters at Agartala.

The Inspector-General of the BSF at Shillong, Mr C.Z. Ghafoor, left for Delhi yesterday for routine discussions but the Centre evidently is thinking of an overall security cover for the North-East.

The Assam Chief Minister, Mr Prafulla Mahanta, met the Prime Minister who was on his way to Arunachal to ask for more force to maintain law and order in the State, especially as the United Liberation Front of Assam extremists are active in upper Assam. The murder of a former Assam Minister, Tankeswar Dihingia, and the looting of a bank at Namrup in which a police officer was shot dead and four constables injured, are attributed to the extremists.

At present, a BSF force is stationed over a stretch of Assam-Nagaland border at Merapani where violence erupted last year in which at least 20 Assam policemen were killed and thousands of the villagers fled their

homes. While the Assam Ministry mends its fences with its neighbours, it would welcome more paramilitary forces being posted in the sensitive areas. But Mr Ghafoor has said that he does not have a reserve.

Meanwhile, work on the border fence along the India-Bangladesh border has not begun despite Assam's persistent requests to the Centre in this matter. BSF sources, however, say that work on the fence and the road running along the border will begin soon but they do not rule out armed interference by the Bangladesh Rifles as in May two years ago. Dhaka's reasoning is that the fence would "validate" claims that Bangladeshis were infiltrating into India apart from disturbing relations between the two countries.

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CSO: 4600/1568

INDIA

PRC, PAKISTAN AGENTS IN MISSION TO DESTABILIZE NORTHEAST

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Mar 86 p 6

[Article by Sujit Kumar Chakraborty]

[Text]

Agartala, March 15—Agents of China and Pakistan are active in Bangladesh, trying to destabilise the sensitive north east region of this country.

Informed sources told this correspondent that Pakistani and US agents have been operating in Bangladesh for several years now, pumping huge amounts of money across the border.

Recently the Chinese have also stepped up their interest in Dhaka, which is a new threat for this region. Highly placed sources said two Chinese intelligence experts (Guovang Yang) arrived in Dhaka in mid-February this year on special training mission. Their code names are Long Jun Thung and Zhong Thing Hua.

Two Pakistani military intelligence officers, Lt Colonel Mirza Ahmed Khan and Captain Liaquat Khan have also arrived in Dhaka around the same time. Both are former Chinese-trained experts in intelligence and covert warfare. They have started a special training course for twelve hand-packed Bangladesh intelligence officers.

The six months long training programmes are learnt to include screening and operations of anti-

Indian rebels in the north east region. The trained officers are supposed to deal with the various north east extremist groups operating from Bangladesh's Chittagong hill tracts.

The increasing Sino-Pak presence has assumed great significance in view of the efforts by the Mizo and Tripura rebels, as also their Naga and Manipuri counterparts to seek fresh sanctuaries in the Chittagong hill tracts in the face of massive operations by the Burmese special counter insurgency troops in north Burma.

The National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) headquarters at Laningo was attacked by the Burmese forces in early February this year forcing the NSCN rebels to set their camp on fire to prevent their documents from falling into Burmese hands.

The sources said the Burmese troops were gradually penetrating the thick mountains, the paradise of the Naga and Kachin rebels, with a well-planned strategy. The dry season offensive by the Burmese army has caught NSCN napping as they were away to procure arms. Several NSCN men lost their lives in fighting.

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CSO: 4600/1571

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS COMPOSITION OF NEW MAHARASHTRA CABINET

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

BOMBAY, March 15.

THE chief minister, Mr. S. B. Chavan, today allotted portfolios to his 19 ministerial colleagues without disturbing the major charges of the six who have been retained from the outgoing ministry.

The portfolios, announced after a cabinet meeting, are:

Mr. S. B. Chavan: Chief minister, general administration, home, jails, irrigation, urban land ceiling act, information and public relations, protocol and other departments not allotted.

CABINET MINISTERS

Mr. Vilasrao Dagdoji Rao Deshmukh: Revenue, co-operation, public works, legislative affairs, and transport.

Mr. Bhagwantrao Manikrao Gaikwad: Agriculture, horticulture, CADA, rehabilitation, and labour.

Mr. Ram Krishnarao Meghe: Education, technical education, sports, youth welfare, cultural affairs, employment, and tourism.

Mr. Shivaji Shivramji Moghe: Forests, social welfare, tribal development, dairy development, and animal husbandry.

Mr. Bhalchandra Anant Sawant: Public health, rural development,

prohibition, employment guarantee scheme, fisheries, ports, khar lands, medical education and drugs, and family welfare.

Mr. Sushilkumar Shinde: Finance, planning, industry, and law and judiciary.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Energy, housing, urban development, food and civil supplies, environment, special assistance, slum improvement and house repairs and reconstruction.

MINISTERS OF STATE

Mr. Sayyed Ahmed: Housing, slum improvement, house repairs and reconstruction, environment and wakfs.

Mr. Vasant Rao Ramrao Dhote: Forests, co-operation and employment guarantee scheme.

Mr. Balasaheb Kisanrao Jadhav: Rural development, special assistance, jails, dairy development and animal husbandry.

Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar: General administration, information and public relations, energy, finance and protocol.

Ms. Chandrika Premji Kenia: Law and judiciary, education, technical education, and employment.

Mr. Jivram Tukaram Mahajan: Home, legislative affairs, transport, and prohibition.

Mr. Annasaheb Sarangdhar Mhaske: Irrigation, horticulture, social forestry and agriculture.

Mr. Ashok Shankarrao Patil: Public works, youth welfare, sports, cultural affairs and tourism.

Mr. Rohidas Chudaman Patil: Revenue.

Mr. Vijaysinh Gopalrao alias Bapusaheb Prabhugaonkar: Planning, industry, CADA, ports, fisheries, rehabilitation and khar lands.

Ms. Rajani Satav: Public health, medical education and drugs, social welfare, family welfare and tribal development.

Mr. Vilas Vishnu Sawant: Food and civil supplies, urban development, and labour.

Meanwhile, the Congress party in the Bombay municipal corporation and the president of the Bombay Pradesh Youth Congress, Mr. Kiran Kapoor, have welcomed the appointment of Mr. S. B. Chavan.

CHRISTIAN BERTH PLEA: The Maharashtra Christian Congress has appealed to the chief minister to include Mrs. Celine D'Silva in his cabinet as a representative of the 25 lakh Christians in the state, according to a statement issued by its president, Mr. Wilfred Pereira, in Bombay on Saturday.

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CSO: 4600/1569

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS RAJIV SPEECH AT PALME FUNERAL

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 16 Mar 86 p 1

[Excerpt] Stockholm, March 15--Mr Rajiv Gandhi today joined other world leaders, including the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr Perez de Cuellar, and the former West German Chancellor, Mr Willy Brandt, in reaffirming their commitment to the cause of development and disarmament as a fitting tribute to the slain Swedish Prime Minister, Olof Palme, report UNI, PTI and Reuter.

Addressing the funeral ceremony, the Prime Minister called for outlawing the weapons of mass destruction and resuming the North-South dialogue.

He said a comprehensive, verifiable nuclear test ban treaty would check the spread of nuclear arms and set in train a process of nuclear arms control which would, hopefully, lead to nuclear disarmament.

"All nations--not just those who have armed themselves with these horrendous weapons, but all of us--have the duty to urge that weapons of mass destruction be outlawed," he said.

North and South

Describing the Swedish leader as one of the most articulate and impassioned votaries of development through international cooperation, Mr Gandhi said: "Mr Palme saw the interests of the North and the South as complementary--progress in the South reinforcing continued growth and prosperity in the North, even as sustained recovery in the North could help sustain the development process in the South."

Mr Gandhi, who is also the chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, said the North-South dialogue must be resumed.

Mr Gandhi called on the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Ingvar Carlsson, here this morning and is understood to have discussed with him the possibilities of reviving the six-nation peace initiative spearheaded by the two countries.

Mr Gandhi is also understood to have apprised Mr Carlsson of the discussion he had with Olof Palme during the latter's visit to New Delhi in January.

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CSO: 4600/1578

INDIA

BANGALORE LAB 'GIANT STEP IN SPACE RESEARCH'

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Mar 86 p 5

[Text]

Bangalore, March 14 —India has taken another giant step in space research by establishing one of the world's largest acoustic test facility at Bangalore for testing and qualifying spacecraft and launch vehicle systems.

Earlier the country had already achieved success in developing its own launch vehicles and become self-reliant to a great extent.

The acoustic test facility has been established here by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in association with the National Aeronautical Laboratory. The Department of Space in a press note said the spacecraft and the launch vehicle systems were subjected to severe mechanical vibrations during the initial launch phase from acoustic noise generated by the combined effects of the rocket engine exhaust and the aerodynamic effects of the atmosphere.

It further said the overall sound pressure levels experienced by the spacecraft could go to a very high level. Pressures on the external surfaces of the launch vehicles would also go higher.

In order to ensure that spacecraft rocket systems can withstand such high intensity acoustic loading, these systems have to be

successfully tested in an acoustic facility capable of simulating the launch environment.

The acoustic facility which was commissioned here, includes a large chamber in which the acoustic noise of the required sound pressure level as well as the spectrum is generated by the flow of high pressure dry air through electropneumatic transducers.

The ISRO and NAL started work on building the facility in 1983 so that this facility could avail the compressed air source of the wind tunnel test facilities reducing the overall cost of the project. The design of the facility and subsequent management of the project was carried out by a joint ISRO-NAL technical team, with NAL having the responsibility for establishing the facility.

The project has been successfully accomplished as a time bound cooperative activity between ISRO and NAL in 32 months at a cost of approximately Rs 1.98 crore and it is now ready for operational use.

Meanwhile, India's first indigenous remote sensing satellite will be launched from a USSR launch vehicle early next year, Dr U R Rao, chairman, ISRO said here.

The satellite, which will be a key element in the country's am-

bitious national natural resources management system, will help in conservation and optimum utilisation of its natural resources, Dr Rao told PTI in an interview.

Referring to the satellite utilisation programme, he said the Department of Space was trying to evolve the methodology to build up the infrastructure for the generation of geographic data based from remote sensing data and integrate the same with the national resource information system data based to form a national natural resources management system.

Referring to the Indian space programme, Dr Rao said it is directed to the goal of self-reliant use of space technology for communications, remote sensing and development and operationalisation of indigenous satellites and launch vehicles for providing these services.

The major accent during the seventh Plan period would be on the development and testing of various sub-systems for ISRO's new launch vehicles like augmented satellite launch vehicle (ASLV) and polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) and satellites — stretched Rohini satellites series (SROSS) and Indian remote sensing satellites.

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CSO: 4600/1567

INDIA

AIRBUS, WESTLAND DEALS MAJOR STEP IN CIVIL AVIATION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Mar 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 15.

CONTRACTS for buying 21 Westland helicopters and 19 futuristic, Airbus A-320 aircraft were signed today, signalling a major hop in Indian civil aviation.

The two agreements, which together account for the largest civil aviation deal ever entered into by India, are set to augment and modernise air transport fleet requirements until the mid-90s.

The Westland agreement, made possible by an outright British grant of £65 million (approximately Rs. 113.75 crores), bristled with uncertainties for long and was clinched in talks between the prime ministers of the two countries.

Westland's supplies along with 21 Dauphins to be bought from France will make the fleet of the newly-formed Helicopter Corporation of India. It will serve the petroleum sector, hill areas, inter-city transport, tourist charters and emergency rescue operations.

IA FLEET

The 19 Airbus A-320 aircraft are to be obtained from the Airbus Industrie, a European company. Estimated to cost Rs. 1,238 crores, it will be inducted into the Indian Airlines fleet, which sorely needs expansion and modernisation.

The A-320 will start joining the fleet by mid-1989 and all are to be delivered by March 1990. Credit for buying the aircraft is no major problem.

The project cost will include spare engines, spares and support equipment. This 60-plus seater shorthaul jet aircraft will be capable of operation to all jet airports in the country.

Airbus will supply Boeing-737 and A-320 aircraft on lease to meet traffic demand till the induction of Airbus A-300 in the fleet.

The agreement for purchase of this most modern fuel-efficient aircraft was signed by Capt. K. Chadha, managing director of Indian Airlines, on behalf of the airline and by Mr. Ranjit Jayaratanam, vice-president of Airbus Industrie.

Dr. S. S. Sidhu, secretary to the civil aviation ministry and chairman of Indian Airlines, and other senior officials of the ministry and the airlines were present.

Incidentally, Mr. Jayaratanam is a young Indian national who has made it to the top echelons of this European consortium as in-charge of sales of south-east Asia and Australia.

The deal is estimated to cost Indian Airlines \$1.2 billion.

Indian Airlines have also given option for 12 more Airbus-320s. In all, it is expected the airlines will buy 31 such aircraft.

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CSO: 4600/1569

IRAN

TEHRAN RADIO COMMENTS ON WAR OVER PAST YEAR

GF261257 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 267 Mar 86

[Commentary by the Research Group of the Central News Unit: "The Year of Resistance and the Year of Victory"]

[Excerpts] The latest reports published during the first days of the new year [beginning on 21 March], which the spokesman of the Supreme Defense Council quoting Islamic soldiers has called "the year of victory", indicate new victories in the Val-Fajr-8 area of operations.

According to statements issued by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Joint Operational Headquarters, the army of unity, to give congratulations on the birth of Imam 'Ali--peace be unto him and his family--and to destroy the enemy troops even further, has engaged in heavy clashes over the past few days, destroying the 704th independent infantry brigade of the Iraqi Armed Forces. They have succeeded, in the Al-Faw-Basra area, in completely surrounding the 28th Infantry Brigade of the 8th Division of Saddam's army.

The late months of the previous year of resistance passed under circumstances when the Iraqi regime tried to weaken the morale of our people by bombing residential areas and thereby attempted to impose a compromise on our Islamic homeland. However, this plot, which was carried out in two phases, was foiled by the firm missile-retaliation of the Islamic Republic and the amazing and widespread presence of the people [in support of the war] during the Jerusalem day demonstrations.

Sometime after this, the Arab reactionary supporters of Saddam and the aggressor powers backing him, thinking that if Iran was denied its oil resources it would be unable to continue the war, placed in the work-order of the Saddamists, aerial bombardment of Khark Island, the main terminal for our country's oil exports. As a result of this, over a period of about one month, they carried out dozens of air raids against Khark Island and its oil installations.

It is interesting to note that despite announcements by respected oil circles which indicate continued oil exports from our country under those circumstances, the Iraqi regime, in its military communiques, continued to claim the destruction of Khark Island.

In any case, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in connection with these attacks, tried to control the flames of the war so that it would not spread to the other Persian Gulf countries. Therefore, as the Iraqi economic installations were crushed in retaliatory actions, our country, through its night-and-day efforts, prevented the creation of such circumstances that would cut off the entire oil supply from the Persian Gulf area because of mischief by the Iraqi regime. Despite this, Islamic Iran continued to warn the Persian Gulf countries that if they do not halt the Iraqi mischief, and if the Iranian oil exports get cut off altogether, it would be made to occur that other countries in the region would also not be able to export their oil.

By rendering this plot futile, over the past year, the heroic people of our country have received the bonus for their resistance and all of the political, economic, and military pressures of the world aggressors to impose a compromise, were foiled.

On the political front, for the first time, the UN Security Council clearly condemned Iraq for continued and widespread use of chemical weapons, which, in turn, was important as a first step toward regaining the weakened rights of the Islamic Republic and the world's condemnation of the aggressor. Many of the world's circles, thereafter, condemned the Saddam regime.

Taking a general look at the events of the past year, one can understand that while the enemies of the Islamic Republic made their utmost efforts to bring a compromise on us, the heroic resistance of the people brought about the major results of the imposed war over the past year.

Without a doubt, to achieve such a great victory, our people paid a high price, which is naturally necessary to achieve any kind of victory. In continuing this resistance, even though the world aggressors suddenly dropped the price of oil and thereby attempted to create some difficulties for us, the experiences of the Islamic revolution and the high and hopeful spirits of our people show that this plot will not reach its desired goal.

/12913

CSO: 4640/245

TRAN

SEMINAR RESOLUTION URGES TOTAL SUPPORT FOR WAR EFFORT

LD032022 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The labayk ya Imam [We Respond To Thy Call, o, imam] seminar which began its work yesterday with the speech by Mr Seyyed 'ali Khamene'i, president of the state and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, issued a resolution at the end of its work today.

This resolution states: With the eighth spring of the Islamic Republic, the brave combatants of the Army of Islam, the antiblasphemy and self-sacrificers of the martyr-nurturing ummahj, have given birth to impressive victories and other miracles, have made the criminals of the west and the east tremble, have placed the aflaqite, Godless system in dire straits and brought it near to death, and are going forward, so that through divine succor and the blessings of the holy imam of the era--may our lives be sacrificed to his cause--they may uproot and annihilate this cancerous tumor from the region and come to the rescue of Islam and the Muslims, in their response to the prophetic summons of the great leader of the Islamic revolution--the illustrious authority of the Muslims--which states that: today, it is incumbent on all of us to defend; everyone who can go to the battlefronts should do so and anyone who cannot, should help behind the fronts. We must realize this behest of the Imam and continue the holy Islamic defense until the complete blossoming of the aspirations of the martyrs and the achievement of final victory and the raising of the banner of: "There is no God but God" and employ and engage better and at a greater level, existing forces and facilities and to establish total and extensive coordination in the various areas of support for the imposed war. The participants in the seminar, while renewing their declaration to fully obey the guidances provided by the uncompromising imam, and expressing their steadfast faith in the continuation of war until the elimination of sedition from the world, declare:

The servers of this divine order, more steadfast and firmly than ever, led by the eminent imam and in step with the rest of individuals comprising the martyr-nurturing ummah, will continue to follow up the sacred aspiration of their martyrs which is to defend the pillars of beloved Islam. In their efforts to achieve their objective, all the members declare their readiness to carry out their responsibilities in the provincial headquarters for war support, consisting of the representatives of the imam and the Friday prayer leaders of provincial centers; governors and commanders of the district corps, and officials in charge of the provincial reconstruction brigades so as to

create coordination, supervision, and employment of all provincial supply facilities, human resources, and publicity media to strengthen the battlefronts of justice against injustice.

With thanks and appreciation extended to all the martyr-nurturing ummah for their all-rounded presence, and to organs, institutions, and the respected serving clergy of this ummah who have struggled to reach the sacred goals of the Islamic revolution, the executive system of the country is determined to direct the movement of this esteemed ummah, to confront the cancerous tumor of the region and to employ its full executive powers within the frameworks of the above mentioned support headquarters.

The martyr-nurturing ummah of Iran is requested, using its alertness and revolutionary maturity, in its confrontation with the movements of the enemies of Islam, and refraining from wastage and extravagance, to transform the enemy's hopes into despondencies. We warn those countries supporting Saddam and their lackeys and agents in the region, that they should not risk the divine wrath of this risen nation any further by resorting to their satanic trickery such as lowering the price of oil and military support for this dying criminal. The engagement of all the cultural powers of the country for the movements of the holy defense, and the propagation of the culture of the battlefronts is required more than ever, and all the publicity apparatus and mass media should devote the bulk of their activities to this important matter.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in order to dispatch the roaring waves of volunteer forces departing for the battlefronts, should, more than before, employ all its facilities and powers and those of other organs, in order to train and organize and dispatch these forces.

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IRAN

RAFSANJANI OFFERS HELP TO ESTABLISH ISLAMIC REGIME IN IRAQ

LD112319 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Tehran, 11 April IRNA--Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said here Friday that it is a sacred duty of all Muslims to contribute to uproot the Ba'thist regime in Iraq. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran will provide Iraqi nation with any sort of help so that it can achieve its goal of establishing an Islamic system of government in that country.

Rafsanjani, who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative at the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) made the remarks at the concluding session of a seminar commemorating martyred Iraqi religious leader Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Sadr and his sister Bintul Huda, at Ferdowsi Hall here.

Rafsanjani, in his lecture at the gathering, lauded martyred Sadr as a great Muslim personality whose rights, he said, reflected the depth of his understanding of problems of the Muslim world, and provided a pragmatic blueprint for solving them.

The Iam's representative also called on the militant Iraqi Ulema, especially those of Najaf, to intensify their guiding role in the Islamic movement of the Iraqi nation...

He furthermore lamented the fact that Iraq suffered from a lack of such upstanding leaders as martyr Sadr, noting that if there were more religious scholars of Ayatollah Sadr's caliber in Iraq undoubtedly the country would now be in a different situation today.

The Islamic Republic, Rafsanjani added, fights for Islam, adding that such a movement is now underway in Iraq inspired by martyr Sadr's thoughts. He noted Iran would assist the Iraqi nation in establishing an Islamic system of government in Iraq.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Hezbollah released a statement on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Mohammad Baqer Ahr Friday in which Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) efforts to strengtynen the U.S.'s line in the region and

in Lebanon were condemned. The statement called on all anti-Zionist forces to drive Saddam and his accomplices out of the global political scene.

Many members of the Ulema from Iraq, Lebanon,. and Afghanistan attended the seminar.

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IRAN

PAKISTAN PAPER INTERVIEWS MAJLIS DEPUTY

GF091418 Lahore JANG in Urdu 7 Apr 86 p 5

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Fakhreddin Hejazi, Majlis deputy and professor of philosophy at Tehran University, by correspondent Irshad Ahmad Haqqani and Parviz Bashir, in Lahore--date not given]

[Text] Lahore--Iran will not end the war until the aggressive Iraqi regime is wiped out. Superpowers are not directly interfering in this war against Iran because they know that if the war is expanded, the result will be a third world war. This was said by Fakhreddin Hejazi, Majlis deputy and professor of philosophy at Tehran University, in an interview here with correspondents Irshad Ahmad Haqqani and Parviz Bashir.

He said that the Iranian public and their representatives support the government in its war policy and other affairs. There are very few people in the country who want an end to the war; they are not included in the government and follow the ideology of nationalism. He said: If I, as a member of the parliament, speak of peace then the mother whose three sons have been martyred in the war and wants martyrdom for her fourth son will slap me in the face.

This popular Islamic war is proceeding according to the religious decree and orders of Imam Khomeyni, who recently asked women to take part in the war. Responding to a question, he said: The big powers know that if they take any direct action against Iran, the war will take a very dangerous turn. These powers give arms to Iraq but, as everyone knows, these weapons can do nothing against the zeal of our people. This has been proved in Vietnam in the past and is now proved in Afghanistan, Lebanon, and in Iran itself.

Responding to another question, he said: The war will not end until the Iraqi regime is toppled and the [UN] Security Council identifies the aggressor and punishes him. We know that if we end the war now, Iraq will prepare itself for another war. We are fighting this war for the sake of peace.

Responding to a question as to how many of their hopes inspired by the revolution have been fulfilled, he said: We did not expect any material gain from the revolution. In fact, after the revolution, due to the war and the fall in oil prices, Iran has suffered a \$250 billion loss. This has halted many projects. As far as spiritual gains are concerned, there have been

several useful results of the Islamic revolution. This revolution has awakened the people in the Islamic countries and has revived the Islamic movements in those countries. During the rule of the shah, 6 billion barrels of oil used to be produced; now we have cut the production to 2 billion barrels. Rural areas have benefited most by the revolution. They now have electricity, roads, and industrial and agricultural growth. Communications between various parts of the country has improved.

Responding to a question on the cut in oil production he said: We want to preserve oil for the progress and welfare of coming generations. If we had continued production at the past scale, then not a drop of oil would have been left in the country within a period of 20 years, and the economy of the country would suffer. The Arab countries which depend only on oil will in a few years face problems.

Responding to a question on the Al-Faw front, Fekhreiddin Hejazi said: Iran is completely in control there. Our occupation of Al-Faw is not based on any expansionist scheme; this is only a defensive operation. They had missile bases there and would hit oil tankers from these bases. They also used to bombard our urban areas. After the victory at Al-Faw, I was the first person to lead the prayers in the grand mosque there.

Responding to another question that as the enemy elements were benefitting by the Iran-Iraq war what was his reaction to this, he said: These elements are enemies of Islam. They say these things as part of a plan. We will soon reveal them. On the question of difference between Sunnis and Shi'ites he said: This revolution does not belong to a particular sect. Both Sunnis and Shi'ites are participating in this revolution. Our stand is that we should first turn to Islam. In Iran today there is no Shi'ite-Sunni problem. In parliament the Sunnis have the same view as the Shi'ite members. Both are united to fight the Americans. Both are sacrificing their lives for their country and religion. In Kordestan, where there is a majority of Sunnis, the Shi'ites say their prayers behind a Sunni prayer leader. At the battlefronts there are both Sunnis and Shi'ites who are fighting against the enemy.

Responding to a question on Shari'atmadari, who after a 5-year detention died yesterday, he said: Shari'atmadari had plotted against Imam Khomeyni and the country five years ago. We have proof of this. He had planted explosives close to the residence of Imam Khomeyni. We gradually learned about this. If there had been an explosion, not only Imam Khomeyni but 10,000 other persons would have been killed. Shari'atmadari later confessed that he had plotted this in conjunction with the son-in-law of the former foreign minister and his own son-in-law. He made the confession on television and offered to repent. It was on this account that this matter was not published in the press. The Qom religious council removed him from the list of religious authorities in view of this plot. He also supported the Shah's regime. Shari'atmadari was suffering from cancer. He was treated by the best physicians in Tehran. There is no treatment for cancer anywhere. We were not scared that if he went abroad he might create propaganda against us. Even now there are more than 100,000 persons abroad who indulge in propaganda against the revolution. We do not bother about it at all. God is with us.

Responding to another question he said: No other law except the Islamic law can be set up in the country. The basis of our system is the principle of Velayet-e Faqih.

IRAN

ARTICLE EXAMINES DEVELOPMENTS, 'CHANGES' IN COUNTRY

Kuala Lumpur ASIAN DEFENCE JOURNAL in English Feb 86 pp 58-63

[Article by Colonel Edgar O'Ballance]

[Text]

It seems as though some momentous changes are taking, or have taken, place in Iran as the Pasdaran (Revolutionary Guard Corps) is to be merged with the regular armed forces, to be probably followed by the Komitehs and similar organisations being merged with the Police and Gendarmerie. Can these be portents of peace, how have they come about, and what do they mean? One of the more surprising aspects of the Gulf War between Iran and Iraq, which began in September 1980, is that it has lasted so long, and at the moment there does not seem to be any real sign of the conflict ending. Oman is the latest country to launch yet another peace initiative. This war has been remarkable in many ways going through various phases, some conventional and some quite extraordinary; and has seen the resurgence of chemical warfare.

THE WAR SO FAR

This war began with Iraqi penetration, with armour leading, into the Iranian province of Khuzistan; then a gradual rallying of ad hoc Iranian forces halted this advance; and was followed by President Bani-Sadr's rehabilitation of the debilitated Iranian regular armed forces (up to about 40% of their former efficiency under the Shah's regime), which with the aid of the Pasdaran, the Revolutionary Guards, soon recaptured about half the "lost" territory. Further Iranian advances drove Iraqi forces back to their own frontier in most places, and an almost 600-mile heavily fortified, entrenched defensive system now separates the opposing ground forces.

Next, in an attempt to break this defensive impasse came the "human waves" of Iranian Fundamentalist volunteers, poorly armed and ill-disciplined, but driven forward by their fanatical Mullahs, to throw themselves against Iraqi defences, only to be mown down in their thousands by artillery, automatic fire, and minefields. These mass suicide attacks, of which there were several, seldom gained much territory. The Iraqis, some well armed by the Soviets and others, had sufficient fire-power and ammunition to render them futile. To these Fundamentalists

were added the youth of the Baseej, nominally between the ages of 12 and 16, when the world witnessed the spectacle of young boys being urged forward in the face of overwhelming fire-power, through minefields to their deaths. The expression "Fundamentalism" has various interpretations, but here can be taken to be a code-word for a combination of religious and political ideology as expounded by Ayatollah Khomeini.

The last Iranian mass "human wave" attack was in March 1985, in the area of the Hawizah Marshes, in the southern part of the "north-south" defensive system, when again loss of life was heavy, being numbered in tens of thousands on both sides. Since, the Iraqis have admitted losing 8,000 killed, but some think that 14,000 would be a more accurate figure; while Iranian losses must have exceeded those of the Iraqis'. Other variations that were concurrent, or followed, included the "War of the Cities", when aircraft and missiles on both sides took offensive action against the other's cities and towns within their reach. This ceased as being counter-productive, and petered out on the 14th June (1985); although there are still occasional aerial strikes against population centres. Currently activity is centred on the Gulf itself, and the Oil Routes through it, each combatant striving to stifle the other's oil export potential.

On the ground along the entrenched defensive system, Iranian "nibbling" tactics seem to have replaced the "human wave" ones, of concentrating comparatively small forces against a selected point to try to make a breakthrough which would bring a battle gain of a few more square miles of devastated territory. These "nibbling" tactics began in July (1985), when three such Iranian attacks were launched, each with minor success. The Iraqi policy remained one of solid, static defence, with little tendency to lunge forward into enemy-held terrain.

In the south a thrust was made through the Hawizah Marshes, near the Majnoon Islands, which penetrated about 16 miles by infiltrating tiny groups and simple fire-and movement tactics, by Iranian troops in small craft, which successively seized a number of "Floating" defended positions amid the "Sea of Reeds". Casualties on both sides were fairly heavy, but not in the astronomical bracket of the March offensive, although no precise numbers have yet been quoted. The Iranians remained in possession of the "floating forts" they recaptured. In the centre near Mandali, a conventional land punch was made against the Iraqi defences, and a few square miles of Iraqi territory changed hands. In the north at the Kurdish-inhabited mountains in the area just north of Kala Diza, and in the Valley of the Great Zab River, by using heli-borne mountain troops (reported to be the Iranian Havanirus Division) the Iranians occupied another hundred or so square miles of Iraqi territory. Another "nibbling" attack was made about two months later (9th September) near Sumar, on the central front, which made a small gain.

KURDISTAN

Since the Gulf War began the Kurdish-inhabited mountains, divided by an artificial frontier line largely on the map between Iran and Iraq, had been mainly ignored by central

governments because troops were more urgently needed elsewhere, thus allowing the quarrelling Kurdish tribes, and groupings, to fight amongst themselves, and to establish "Liberated Zones". Campaigning by Iranian troops and Pasdaran in 1983-4 re-established at least nominal control over part of the Kurdish mountains, causing many Kurdish rebels and their families to seek sanctuary over the Iraqi border. The Baghdad Government still did not have troops to spare to bring their rebellious Kurds to heel again, having to be content with bribing Kurdish political groups and tribes to be their proxy fighters.

In June and July 1983, the Iranians launched a huge attack (in conjunction with others elsewhere along the Front) into the Great Zab River valley near Hajj Umran, a large massif, which seized a large encampment of Iranian Kurdish insurgents and their families, who had been bribed by the Baghdad Government to fight against their own Teheran Government. About 150,000 Pasdaran and troops fought against some 15,000 Kurdish Pesh Mergas, who were aided by Iraqi Kurds working with the Iranians against their own Baghdad Government. An area of about 250 square miles of Iraqi territory around Hajj Umran, and that part of the Great Zab valley was seized, and is still held by the Iranians. This area was again enlarged in 1985.

PEACE OR WAR?

Several nations and international organisations have attempted to become peacemakers between Iran and Iraq, all without success so far. At first both sides made stiff conditions, but both sides have modified their early stands considerably since. Negotiations founder on one main point. Ayatollah Khomeini, the "Velayet Faqih" (Religious Leader), who exercises supreme power in Iran, insists that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, be removed from office and punished. There is a personality clash between the two national leaders. Khomeini is especially bitter against Saddam Hussein, who evicted him from Iraq in 1978, at the Shah's request. Saddam Hussein has no intention of bowing out. President Saddam Hussein said on the 4th August (1985) that the war was stalemated, and that he wished to end it as soon as possible; but Khomeini is adamant, so both countries fight on.

The heavy strain of the war on Iraq's economy, manpower and resources is excessive, but somehow money and energy can always be found for a war in which national pride is involved. Now armed by the USSR, France, Britain and other countries, including indirectly the United States, while Ayatollah Khomeini remains adamant, Iraq has little option to continuing the war, except abject surrender. The Iranians are surprised that Iraq, with a small population (of about 14-million) has not already collapsed under the weight of Iranian attacks; but it has not, and this must worry the Teheran Government.

The situation is somewhat, but not completely, different with Iran, a much larger nation (population about 43-million) with more territorial depth. Both countries are war-weary and both want peace, as there is little immediate prospect of either combatant decisively defeating the other by military means. One wonders if Khomeini is beginning to appreciate this. Iran fights on because Khomeini says so, and his word is law; but one

suspects that certain elements of the people are losing their enthusiasm for the fight. If Khomeini could be persuaded to change his mind on the one sticking point, the removal of President Saddam Hussein, a cease-fire would not be far distant, when under the umbrella of a truce, a peace agreement could eventually be produced. Many think that the ageing (83 years) Khomeini must soon depart from the political scene, when fresh peace initiatives would be more fruitful. People have been saying this almost since the war began, but Ayatollah Khomeini remains in good health for his years, and has an elder brother also in comparative good health.

Iranian Economy

There is an ongoing argument within the Iranian Government and in the Majilis, on whether or not to "liberalise the economy", which paradoxically, despite the fact that Iran has almost cleared its foreign debt, and reduced the rate of inflation from 34% annually down to 3.4%; is in a rickety state. It is burdened with an inefficient industry with low productivity; factories and communications are in need of long overdue repairs, new machinery and improved methods of production; certain items of food and fuel are rationed; there are demands for higher wages and an unemployment problem; and a housing problem also, especially in Teheran, on the outskirts of which shanty towns have mushroomed. The government bureaucracy is grossly over-swollen.

The suggestion is that businessmen, many returning after having been dispossessed of their business during and after the Revolution, should be drawn back into the economy, and virtually given a free-hand to make the country prosperous again by trade and commerce. The three key men in the government, President Khomeini, the Speaker of the Majilis, Rafsanjani, and Prime Minister Moussavi, have gained Ayatollah Khomeini's approval that businessmen be allowed a greater role in the economy, but they individually disagree as to what extent. President Khomeini, a conservative, favours full economic liberalisation; while Prime Minister Moussavi only reluctantly concurs because of dire necessity, insisting that priority still be given to the Mostazefin (the Dispossessed poor). Moussavi also favours large commercial state undertakings instead of free enterprise. Speaker Rafsanjani is between these two extremes, but insists that the government payroll be reduced. At Khomeini's behest all three men have been making speeches about "belt-tightening", a much used expression in Iran today, and "liberalising" the economy.

Minimising Fundamentalism

Suddenly and surprisingly, Ayatollah Khomeini has also given his approval of what can only be described as a reduction of Fundamentalism. It seems it is the government's intention to curb and tame the hard-line Fundamentalists. During the past three months many Fundamentalists rigidly opposed to radical reform, that is to liberalise the economy mainly, have been selectively removed from key positions in the Pasdaran, the Komitehs (initially self-appointed in the Revolution), that function in the cities and towns, and from the Islamic Societies and Councils, that police and monitor religious, political and social affairs.

During the last week of August, Speaker Rafsanjani said in the Majlis, "There has always been a large bureaucracy in the public sector in Iran, and after the Revolution this was increased significantly as a necessary reforming force. This is no longer needed, and we now have "spare capacity", which must be reduced". In the current jargon, he was saying he must "minimise Fundamentalism", meaning that the "spare capacity" consisted of those who were resisting change. This can, of course, be simply seen as the government working to collect the power of such leaders over the people through their several organisations, for itself.

The Pasdaran-armed Forces Merger

The last week in September (1985) was known as National Week in Iran, when in Teheran especially there were large military parades, aerial fly-pasts, and a huge reconstruction of the Howizah Marsh Battle of March (1985); all designed to rouse national pride in the war against Iraq. Lavish praise in the media, and in VIP speeches, was heaped on the regular armed forces, the Police, the Gendarmerie, and even the Secret Police; but conspicuously absent was any praise for the Pasdaran and the Khomitehs; who were obviously out of favour for some reason.

Following this, Ayatollah Khomeini dropped his bomb-shell: he ordered the Pasdaran to merge with the regular armed forces. So far the two organisations, both roughly of the same strength, were separate ones that counterbalanced each other. They had worked and operated together on the battlefield, but not well, there being distrust and suspicion between them, and while that tended to hinder the war effort at times, it had enabled the Iranian Government to divide and rule adequately.

The Pasdaran

The Pasdaran, the Revolutionary Guard Corps, numbers about 250,000 (IISS figures) and is organised into ten divisions, each of which have two or more brigades; and additionally there are independent brigades. Some of the brigades have small groupings of armour, field engineers, artillery and air defence weapons and equipment; but otherwise the men are trained and equipped as infantrymen, with a low scale of weaponry.

At first a revolutionary rabble, full of enmity against all who opposed Ayatollah Khomeini, the Pasdaran were blooded in September 1980, when small groups of them, with others, mustered to halt the advancing Iraqis. Since, they have increased in strength and expertise, and gained considerable war experience. For example, the Pasdaran almost alone, reduced the Kurdish Rebellion in northern Iran in 1983-84. The Pasdaran achieved "corps" status, and then a Minister (Mohsen Rafiqdust) was appointed to be directly responsible for the Revolutionary Guard Corps. The Pasdaran had always been used as an instrument of government policy, and was never part of the armed forces, which came directly under the Defence Minister, which is still Prime Minister Moussave, who still holds this office on a temporary basis.

Although the Pasdaran worked closely with the regular armed forces since the war began, the personnel of the two have never properly mingled, or served side-by-side. Pasdaran formations have always remained intact. From the beginning of the war no love was lost between the two. In the first months of the war the Pasdaran was usually positioned just behind the front-line soldiers, ready to turn its weapons on any of them who withdrew without orders, which they did on many occasions.

THE ARMED FORCES

The regular armed forces number about 305,000, conscription being in force for a two-year period. The regular army is about 250,000-strong (with 100,000 conscripts); and its combat element is organised into eleven divisions (being three mechanised ones, seven infantry and one of Special Force), with supporting units; and with a number of "Quds" (Jerusalem) Battalions, which are reserve ones, mobilised as required. While Pasdaran commanders were politically and religiously motivated; the regular officer corps was non-political, nationalist in the patriotic sense of that expression; and moderate in religious terms.

Iranian armed forces have largely recovered from their hard experiences in the Revolution, when the greater part of them crept into barracks to maintain a low profile and to weather the storm, when the higher command structure was shattered by executions, imprisonment and dismissals. About 12,000 officers, mainly senior ones, were removed in the initial purges. Arms possessed include (IISS figures) over 2,700 tanks, some American and some Soviet; 1,200 guns, mainly American; and 1,500 Air Defence weapons, mainly Soviet ZSU-23mm ones; but only a small proportion of them are operative, partly owing to post-Revolution neglect, but mainly because of lack of spare parts. Iran has obtained military items from China, North Korea, Israel, Libya and Syria, and on the world arms market; but not nearly enough, the Americans having been very successful in persuading many countries to embargo arms to the Iranians. For example, Iran had 420 British Chieftain tanks, and while a few have been lost in early battles, hardly any of the remainder are serviceable.

The Air Force probably has only 90 (some say only 80) serviceable combat aircraft; and it is thought that fewer than 20 of the original batch of 77 US F-14 Tomcats are air-worthy. The Iranian Navy has been silent, and generally inactive, having about 12 destroyers and frigates, and about 30 small craft, and two hovercraft; but their serviceability ratio is low.

KHOMEINI'S REASONING

When one speculates briefly on Khomeini's reasons for such a gigantic merger, a scenario at once comes to mind that as the regular army, and especially the officer corps, increases in confidence and capability, it might one day want to enter the political ring; and perhaps when the war ends may want to march on Teheran to put a military junta in power. In view of this possibility this merger makes sense to prevent such an event from ever happening, as if the Pasdaran penetrates regular army units and reports on religious and political deviations, it will be able to swamp dissidence. Perhaps Khomeini visualises a Mao Tse-tung-type people's militia completely loyal to himself only.

It is said that Pasdaran commanders are very much in favour of this merger, and no doubt are eager to impose their ideology, influence and authority on the armed forces, which is understandable. This, of course, pre-supposes the premise that Khomeini has complete and utter confidence in the Pasdaran. But has he? There seems to be some doubt about this. Some reports indicate that Khomeini might regard the Pasdaran as being too rigid and Fundamentalist for his changing doctrines and policies, and the government's wish to liberalise the economy, and minimise Fundamentalism.

On the other hand this merger may be designed to break down not only the professionalism of the armed forces so painfully regained, and their traditional nationalism, but also to break down the extreme fanatical fervour of the Pasdaran which may seek to retard radical reform. Perhaps it is a bit of both. This issue may be further enlivened over how the merger should be enforced, as President Khomeini, who has long been courting the armed forces, clashes with his old rival, Speaker Rafsanjani, who has long sought favour with the Pasdaran.

The idea that Pasdaran Fundamentalism and regular army nationalism will happily march together for the good of the nation is an interesting one, but may not work so well, especially at first, as apart from existing bad feelings between them, each will try to convert the other, and both will want to dominate. Both will strive to be the elite. Such a gigantic upheaval can only cause friction and will take time to cool down; and can only weaken defence capability.

It is not yet known precisely how the merger is to be accomplished, and whether personnel from both organisations are to be inter-mixed in sub-units, or whether motivated Pasdaran divisions will be kept intact, but under central army GHQ command, to be used like crack German SS divisions were against the Russians in World War II, as elite "trouble-shooters" on the battlefield. This merger will create many problems, such as joint training, especially higher military training at Staff and War Colleges, and of promotion.

A more acceptable theory is that this merger is a deliberate ploy by the government to obtain more direct authority over both the armed forces and the Pasdaran, and not be content to rely upon influencing such an extremist organisation as the Pasdaran, that is largely a law unto itself. It should be remembered that Iran has about 2.50 million other part-time religiously and politically motivated militias, that include the Baseej (Popular Mobilisation Army) of youthful volunteers, the Mostazafin (Guards); and the Hezbollahi (Home Guards); and there is also the 70,000-strong gendarmerie; so large counter-balances do exist.

CENTRALISING POWER

It will take all Ayatollah Khomeini's supreme authority and influence to push the proposed Pasdaran-Armed Forces merger through successfully, but the next progression, designed to minimise Fundamentalism, will be even more difficult. Reports from Teheran indicate the government, in its policy of further gathering power centrally, is considering as its next step, a merger of the Komitehs and the Islamic Societies and Committees into the Police and the gendarmerie. Perhaps after all Khomeini is really preparing for peace with Iraq, as such reshaping of Iranian society generally is hardly conducive to maintaining, or increasing, Iran's defence capability.

IRAN

RADIO IRAN CLAIMS REGIME MURDERED SHARI'ATMADARI

GF041503 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Following the announcement of the death of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, last night a large number of the followers of the late Ayatollah rushed to Mehrab Hospital. The size of the crowd increased each minute and it looked like a wave of people would start to march in Tehran. The guards and executioners of Khomeyni suddenly became fearful and the regime immediately ordered them to disperse the crowd. The guards clashed with the mourning crowd and severe clashes between people and the cronies of the regime of the Islamic Republic broke out. The guards tried to disperse the crowd gathered around the hospital through more harshness. However, the people sat on the ground and began chanting and mourning.

According to a report by our correspondents in Iran, conditions in Tehran have become abnormal since last night. Tehran's bazaar is almost closed and people are leaving for Qom in droves to participate in the funeral of the late Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. Traffic on the Qom-Tehran and Saveh-Tehran highways is several times the volume of an ordinary day. Since the early hours of last night shouts and cries of anguish can be heard in the homes of people in the East and West Azarbaijan cities, particularly in Tabriz. People quickly spread the news of the murder of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, the great source of the emulation of Azerbaijanis, across the cities.

The Tabriz bazaar was closed today. The regime's officials are in fear of the (?transformation) of the funeral of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari into a wave of demonstrations and opposition to the regime. As a result, the regime is stopping any mourning ceremonies and memorials in East and West Azarbayjan.

According to our latest reports, last night after the guards stationed around Mehrab Hospital were unable to disperse the crowd, they asked for help. Upon arrival of new guards and committee units, several severe clashes broke out between people and the guards. According to news sources, several Guards Corps members were severely beaten up by the mourning crowd and several others were forced to flee.

These reports indicate that last night's gathering showed the great weakness of the regime. During some of the clashes, guards threw their arms to the people and, while tearing their shirts, started crying and chanting and joined the ranks of the mourning crowd.

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IRAN

RADIO IRAN REPORTS ON REACTION TO SHARI'ATMADARI DEATH

GF051646 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] The Tehran bazaaris, who are staunch and faithful emulators of the late Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari, plan to hold a memorial for him in Tehran's Arg Mosque. The bloody regime of Tehran, disregarding the wishes of the bazaaris and the emulators of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, has stopped the ceremonies. According to our correspondent in Tehran, the bazaaris have gathered around the regime's Interior Ministry and are asking for official permission to hold a memorial in Arg Mosque. Hundreds of guards have surrounded Arg Mosque to prevent people from entering. According to the same report, early this morning shouts of "curse Khomeyni" could be heard around Zargarha District of the bazaar and in streets around Shah Mosque.

A number of committee members, who intended to disrupt the peaceful mourning ceremonies of the people, were faced with strong resistance of the mourners. The mercenary committee members insulted the people and threatened to arrest and torture them and attempted to harshly disperse the crowd. A group of mourners then moved toward the Interior Ministry while a second group left for the Azarbayjaniha Mosque. According to our correspondents, the guards tried to disperse the crowd near the Interior Ministry building. However, because people did not heed their warnings, they came out of their vehicles and clashed with them in several areas. They did not manage to disperse the mourners and as a result retreated. The crowd around the Interior Ministry subsequently grew larger. They were still there at the time of dispatch of this report.

The Azarbayjanis living in Tehran began to mourn for Grand Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari yesterday in Azarbayjaniha Mosque and in the Tehran Bazaar. The entire interior of the mosque is filled with people and mourning groups; chanters and groups beating their chests are continuously entering the mosque. There is no sign of Khomeyni and his mercenaries within. Guards and committee members have no power within the Azarbayjaniha mosque. The will of the people rules there. The atmosphere is filled with the slogan of "curse Khomeyni."

Mashhad has been inflamed with passion since yesterday. People of the city have asked His Holiness Ayatollah Haj Hasan Komi, who is himself a prisoner of the regime and whose residence is under constant surveillance by the regime of

mullahs, to hold special ceremonies in Gowharshad Mosque to mourn the death of Grand Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. He has agreed to this request.

Moments after the dispatch of this report, we were informed that people of Mashhad accompanied by pilgrims to the shrine of the eight imams, have begun peaceful mourning in the shrine and their chants and cries and requests asking Imam Reza to save Iran can be heard across the courtyard of the shrine. Among the people of Mashhad the word is circulating that should the regime oppose a mourning ceremony in Gowharshad Mosque, they would go to the shrine and stage a sit-in. A number of followers and emulators of the late Ayatollah Shari'atmadari who have come on pilgrimage from cities around Mashhad intend to hold mourning ceremonies in the Gowharshad Mosque. In a statement issued today by Khorasanis who emulate Ayatollah Shari'atmadari, it is said that Mr Khomeyni caused Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's death by opposing his request to go abroad and that he should pay for this crime. The announcement also notes that the regime, through maintaining silence over the death of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari and by stopping mourning ceremonies, has clearly displayed its animosity toward Shi'ism.

The people of Tabriz whose nationalist and religious feelings have been unleashed following the announcement of the death of Ayatollah Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari began yesterday to leave for Qom via cars and busses to participate in his funeral and mourning ceremonies.

According to a report from our correspondent in Tabriz, the armed agents of the regime and guards who have become frightened after witnessing the unprecedented rush of vehicles toward Tehran and Qom, are stationed along the highways and have closed them. During several severe clashes between guards and the people, many have been killed or wounded.

According to our news cells in Tabriz, since yesterday afternoon guards and committee members using telex and telephones have repeatedly asked Tehran and Reza'iyeh for additional forces. The text of a telex that fell in the hands of the nationalist forces states: People are very angry. They are openly insulting the Imam. If their moves are resisted, we fear that the events of February 1977 [date as heard] in Tabriz will be repeated. Forces present in Tabriz are not sufficient to deal with the possible expansion of the popular demonstrations. Send additional forces as fast as possible.

According to a report by a Tabriz resistance cell, in a telephone report to Tehran the official in charge of Tabriz central guards committee announced that strong slogans against the imam and the war can be heard among the people. He added: The people are angry at us for preventing mourning ceremonies. Police personnel are not prepared to get involved in possible clashes under any circumstances. They have distanced themselves from the issue. We need more help to control Tabriz. Since 0800 yesterday over 5,000 cars, vans, trucks, and buses loaded with people have left for Tehran on their way to Qom. We have tried to stop the formation of a convoy toward Tehran so far.

According to our reporter in Tabriz, yesterday, following the clash between guards in the Bazaar committee which ended in the death of a guard, some of

the guards did not turn up at the committee this morning. This has added to the fear of the committee members. All committees are on full alert. The guards are afraid of the angry people of Tabriz rushing the committees, disarming them, and completely taking the events out of government control.

Last night in Shiraz' Nasirilmolk Mosque and the (Dor-e Arabha) District, a group of youths, using the dark of the night, held demonstrations chanting slogans against Khomeyni. Around Nasirilmolk Mosque a severe clash broke out between a group of guards in a patrol unit and the demonstrators. The guards fired into the crowd. Near Esfahan Arch, as well as in Dehbozorgi District of Shiraz, a number of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari's emulators began moving toward the home of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohyeddin Mesbahi yesterday afternoon while chanting the mourning in a peaceful demonstration. A statement was circulated among them signed by "the steadfast clergy" in which the death of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari was attributed to a lowly plot by Khomeyni and his allies.

In many of the alleys of the (?Govareh) District of Esfahan, as well as Mohammad Reza Shah, Chahar Bagh-e Pa'in, and Nazar Avenues and the city's Kohneh Square demonstrations by Khomeyni's opposition were held. The slogan of "peace be upon Shari'atmadari, curse to Khomeyni" is written on the walls in Esfahan. The people of the city are preparing themselves to hold mourning ceremonies for Ayatollah Shari'atmadari.

A large number of the emulators of the late Ayatollah have left for Qom since yesterday. In the city of Qom, many of the students and clergy of the Qom seminaries are engulfed in sorrow for the death of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari. The city of Qom is in severe turmoil and the people of this holy city held peaceful mourning ceremonies in the shrine of Her Holiness M'asumeh yesterday irrespective of the extensive presence of the guards and mercenaries of the regime. Currently many of the classes and seminaries of Qom are closed.

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PAKISTAN

DIPLOMACY IN DEALING WITH TRIBAL LEADERS LAUDED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 5 Mar 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Wali Khan Kokikhel's Patriotic Move"]

[Text] Wali Khan Kokikhel, leader of an independent tribe in Khyber Agency, has resolved all his differences with the Pakistani government. After a long meeting with Mr Abdul Ghafur, governor of NWFP, Wali Khan announced that not only is he completely satisfied with the Pakistani government, but also fully supports the Pakistani ideology. The governor of NWFP praised Wali Khan's pledge of allegiance to Pakistan and welcomed him back. The governor assured him that his government intends to see that the rights of the tribes are recognized as guaranteed by Pakistan's constitution. Tribal customs and tradition will be respected and teaching of the Koran will be started. Wali Khan promised to cooperate with the officials of the Khyber Agency in implementing government policies in his area.

This problem, which has been a headache for our government for the past several months, is finally solved by the diplomatic efforts of the governor. It was feared that this problem could become serious enough to endanger our defense in the Northwestern Frontier. This action shows that a civilian governor can be more effective than a military governor. If we look carefully, most of the problems in the tribal areas were caused by military governors. They tried to solve tribal problems with force which, however, only aggravated them. Our history shows that bullets do not solve any problems. East Pakistan became Bangladesh because of the reckless use of force by Yahya Khan during the martial law rule there. Bhutto also tried to follow this formula in Baluchistan. Before it could deteriorate badly Mr Bhutto's regime ended. The martial law government that followed Bhutto's rule did not attack Baluchistan and even started some development projects there. Baluchis are very thankful for this change. However, the martial law administrator and the military governor did use some force in the tribal districts. This show of force was wholly inappropriate, especially at a time when the Soviets occupied Afghanistan and Afghan refugees were coming in hoards to Pakistan. These independent tribes are the cornerstone of our defense in that area. Instead of trying to alienate them, we should have tried to establish more stable relations with them. We are glad that a civilian governor has finally settled this issue.

These proud and war-like tribes were treated badly by the British. This unfair treatment stopped when Pakistan was established. These tribes were given freedom within their own borders. In return they did not make any trouble for the government of Pakistan. A few years ago, this area was blamed for being a stronghold of drug smugglers. We are sure that some people were using this area for illegal activities. The best way to stop illegal drug traffic would have been to get the cooperation of these tribes. Instead, the government accused some tribal leaders of treason. During our military action in those districts, Wali Khan made some statements that made him appear to be a Soviet agent and an enemy of Pakistan. Kokikhel's past history supported these suspicions. He was evicted from the Khyber Agency about 30 or 32 years ago. He was not liked in Afghanistan during Shah Tahir Khan's regime and had to flee to Pakistan. He is credited with claiming to be receiving arms and ammunition from the Karmel government. He has never condemned the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan. He also asked for help for anti-Pakistani activities from the United Nations, India, Russia, some Islamic countries and the Karmel government. Such activities cannot be expected from a patriotic citizen. He even told some newsmen while on his way to visit the NWFP governor that he had already complained to the United Nations and, if the [Pakistani] government did not agree to his four-point proposal, he would not care if his actions resulted in the third world war. He made this statement a little before he met the governor of NWFP. After the meeting, the governor and Wali Khan Kokikhel both declared that "all mutual problems are settled." Kokikhel added that since the tribal people has made many sacrifices for establishing Pakistan, they cannot even think of harming it. He added, "As a patriotic citizen, I want to serve my country. I have never accepted any offer from Pakistan's enemies. Any enemy of Pakistan and Islam cannot be my friend." We hope that Kokikhel will keep his promise like a good Muslim and will not run for help to Pakistan's enemies even when he is unhappy with us. We are asking Wali Khan and other tribal leaders to protect this land, known as the land of Islam's swords, and take care of traitors who try to blackmail the Pakistani, Karmel and the Soviet governments simultaneously.

We should seriously consider Wali Khan's accusations against tribal members of the Parliament. He believes that if the government give them special privileges, they will abuse them. In other words, they will pursue the approach that they do not want the government itself to follow. Our government must hold open elections in those areas if there is any truth in this accusation. However, the government must take all actions with caution.

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PAKISTAN

MRD URGED TO CLARIFY STAND ON 1973 CONSTITUTION

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 6 Mar 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Constitution of 1973 and MRD"]

[Text] Mr Asghar Khan, leader of Tahrik-e Istiglal, while talking to newsmen on the occasion of the opening of his new office, expressed his dissatisfaction with the MRD. Though officially he was connected with this coalition, unofficially he had expressed his desire for dissolution of the MRD. The MRD charter does not include even one provision that reflects the desire of any of the parties in it. After martial law, the MRD does not even have a slogan to get public attention. Mr Asghar Khan said during his interview that the MRD has no program except criticism of General Zia. The most important demand the MRD had was reinstatement of the 1973 constitution. It is common knowledge now that most of the parties in this coalition are against this constitution. Mr Asghar Khan told the newsmen that the MRD must clarify its position on the constitution issue.

Actually, MRD's most important demand, reinstatement of the 1973 constitution, is its biggest weakness. Even the writers of this constitution ignored it. Mr Bhutto never followed it during his administration. He has met his maker, but his associates who were equally guilty of neglecting the constitution had the nerve to justify their attack on Baluchistan as a constitutional right. Some people, who do not consider this constitution practical, used it to concoct the idea of a confederation of provinces. The NDP National Democratic Party, which tried to make a big deal of this constitution, was in the forefront to declare it dead! Slowly, all of Wali Khan's followers began to sing the same tune. Mr Ghulam Ahmed Billaour, vice president of the NDP, declared the 1973 constitution dead in a meeting of the MRD held in Multan on 21 February. He added that we need revolution, not midterm elections as demanded by the MRD. It would have been better if the MRD had agreed on something before trying to unite other parties under its banner. What is worse, it does not even agree on various amendments made to the constitution between the presidencies of Bhutto and Zia. For example, none of the parties has anything to say about President Zia's amendment extending the quota system for Sind for another 10 years. Was it acceptable to everyone? Similarly, none of the MRD parties opposed President Zia's amendment for separate elections for non-Muslims. Even Jamiat-e Ulema-e Pakistan (JUP), which is not a part

of this coalition, refrained from making any comment on these double standards for elections. It should be remembered that it was President Zia who had promised non-Muslim voters a separate voters' list.

Demands of left-wing parties for common elections and combined voter lists for Muslims and non-Muslims and common elections under the election guidelines of the 1973 constitution are understandable. However, the fact that this demand was made from the platforms of Jamiat-e Ulema-e Islam (JUI) and JUP is hard to digest. Common elections just do not agree with the Muslim ideology. Only recently, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani announced in a press conference in Sakhar that he will continue to fight for elections by the party system as defined in the 1973 constitution. Maulana Noorani did not explain anything about common elections. Will there be common elections if this constitution is reenacted in its original form? Maulana Noorani even has said that he does not believe in "Pakistani nationality", he only believes in "Muslim nationality." Whenever the question of voter lists is raised, JUI leaders have insisted on separate voter lists for Muslims and non-Muslims. However, JUI did not support the 8th amendment calling for separate voter lists for Muslims and non-Muslims. We do not know if JUI was unaware of the issue or has joined the left-wing parties. We think that these parties, whether they belong to the MRD coalition or not, should agree on the shape of the 1973 constitution before asking for its reenactment. Will they accept the amendments made according to Muslim ideology or do they want the constitution the way it was written originally and without the amendment about Muslims and non-Muslims?

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